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the right to
televise football

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THE INDEPENDENT

2,998

TUESDAY 28 MAY 1996

WEATHER Dry start, showers later 40p (IR 45p)

For beef, Major and St George

'Independent' poll reveals:

- Most of us back Prime Minister in BSE battle
- Tory voters think we should hit back at Germany
- Nearly half of all voters are ready to threaten to pull out of Europe altogether

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Conservative supporters want the Prime Minister to disrupt European Union business and to retaliate against Germany, according to a NOP poll for the *Independent*.

If John Major heeds their message he could be driven to escalate the "beef war", which would risk his Commons majority, as the Tory MP George Walden has warned that he would have to consider his position in that event.

Tory voters overwhelmingly support the Prime Minister's campaign to disrupt Brussels business, with 77 per cent saying he was "right" to embark on it. Even when opposition supporters are included, there remains firm support for the Government's stance, with 54 per cent of the whole sample supporting the campaign to frustrate EU work and only 33 per cent opposing it.

Most Tory supporters (62 per cent) said they would ban German imports if the ban stays. Half of Tory voters want to threaten to pull out of the European Union altogether.

Public opinion as a whole is evenly split on whether to retaliate against German imports, with 47 per cent in favour and 45 per cent against. And voters generally are only narrowly opposed to the idea that, if the ban

stays, Britain should threaten to withdraw from the EU: that option was opposed by a margin of 47 to 43 per cent.

Those findings imply that while Mr Major's battle with Brussels may be popular with the core Tory constituency, it may not help improve the Government's popularity among floating and other voters.

And the Government came under swift pressure yesterday

at the first sign of retreat. Roger Freeman, the Public Service minister, charged with BSE eradication, backed off the idea that a timetable for lifting the beef ban would form part of talks with EU partners. He said on *ITN* radio: "We have said we want a framework. We don't want a detailed timetable that inevitably by a certain date certain things must happen."

Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission, on Sunday ruled out a timetable for lifting the ban. The ban on gelatin, tallow and semen will be lifted next week, he said, but ministers admit the main ban on beef exports may still be in place at the end of the year.

John Redwood, last year's Tory leadership challenger, said yesterday: "Farmers and persons in the meat business would expect a timetable for the remaining threat to their jobs and businesses to be lifted before the Government resumes normal co-operation with Europe."

which is illegal, despite pressure from Tory right-wingers to ignore European law.

He was backed yesterday by David Hunt, the former minister who is leading a concerted loyalty drive and claiming a clear majority of Tory MPs - 200 out of 326 - under the Conservative Mainstream banner.

"When the Prime Minister gives a lead, he should be given support, and much more loudly," Mr Hunt said. "But there can be no question of illegality."

Tory right-wingers have, however, warned Mr Major against "leading them up to the top of the hill and back down again". Even the centrist David Wilshire, MP for Spelthorne,

said yesterday: "If he starts compromising, all is lost. He has no choice but to see it through."

In a newspaper article today Mr Walden compares Mr Major to "the man who thought he was leading the crowd and looked round to find they were chasing him".

Robin Cook, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, is expected to say today that the Government's aim should be a complete lifting of the ban by the Florence summit on 23 June.

NOP interviewed by telephone a representative quota sample of 1,003 people aged 15+ on 24 and 26 May.

More poll findings tomorrow: Is Blair ready for government?



Milk marketing: Cows belonging to Solihull farmer Harry Goode have been turned into mobile advertising hoardings after he was unable to sell them

Photograph: Newsteam

(All figures are percentages. Tory, Lab and LD refer to respondents' usual political allegiance)				
Is the Prime Minister right or wrong to disrupt EU business to try to get the ban lifted?				
Total	Tory	Lab	LD	
Right 54	77	38	56	
Wrong 33	16	46	32	
Don't know	7	15	12	

If the ban is not lifted, do you think Britain should retaliate by banning imports from Germany?				
Total	Tory	Lab	LD	
Right 47	62	39	42	
Wrong 45	31	54	52	
Don't know	6	7	5	

If the ban is not lifted, do you think Britain should threaten to withdraw from the EU?				
Total	Tory	Lab	LD	
Right 43	50	39	43	
Wrong 47	41	53	49	
Don't know	9	8	8	

Hanging on (and on, and on, and on)

JO MOYES

Incomprehensible and "robotic" operators, endless time left dangling with no one to talk to and the incessant thinking of electronic muzak. No, it's not a Dennis Potter tale of futuristic hell - you've just tried to call your local utility office.

A survey by monitoring organisation Teleconomy found that in 2,000 calls made to 101 utilities offices, 22 local authorities and 100 private sector companies, the utilities turned in a "disgraceful" performance.

The results showed a widespread inability to grasp even the basics of telephone use, such as a failure to greet the caller.

"We always suggest saying 'good morning' because people don't hear the first few words on the telephone. They need time to tune in and hear the useful information, like the company name," said Joanne Gascoigne, business development manager at Teleconomy.

But companies who did use a formal greeting were often just as unsuccessful. The survey said: "At times a laudable attempt at good customer relations ended in lengthy introductions such as 'Good morning British Gas' or 'Good morning British Gas speaking how you speak'." Other utility companies, it said, "peppered callers with a rapid burst of verbal grapeshot" such as "Name? What address?"



Which area? in quick succession. Rapid speech often reduced sentences to mere one-words while the tone was often "off-hand or wooden" or "robotic and abrupt". It also suggests voice-messaging and interactive voice-response devices, a massive growth market in Britain, are not as effective as previously thought. A third of all offices offered "music-while-you-wait" or recorded messages of the "You are held in a queue" variety, and the majority of callers were left waiting for an unacceptable length of time.

According to Ms Gascoigne, customers are increasingly irritated by electronic queuing and voice-mail systems and are voting with their receivers. Callers, she said, prefer a "warm body" response. "People do respond

badly to those mechanised voices. If you're being held in a queue you're paying for it. And if the companies know they've got a problem with time-and-answer, why don't they address it?"

Overall the survey found that only 19 per cent of electricity offices, 10 per cent of water offices and 8 per cent of gas offices provided an "acceptable" telephone service, compared with 40 per cent of local authorities.

In terms of the quality of responses, the utility companies performed even worse. Not one gas or water office and only 2 per cent of electricity offices answered queries acceptably, compared with 64 per cent of local authorities.

But then simply speaking to your local utility office is often an achievement in itself, it seems. In the survey 93 per cent of all calls to British Gas in Leeds were abandoned. A spokesman for Ofgas said he was aware of complaints about service, but suggested the problem could be partly due to its recent split into four companies.

This year sees a new section in the 1995-6 Ofwat annual report, to monitor the ease with which customers can make contact with their water company.

Only Scottish Power provided a "consistently excellent" service in the tests carried out earlier this year - perhaps unsurprising in a company that has just launched its own telecoms service.

NOT CRICKET
Ray Illingworth, the chairman of England cricket selectors, is to face a disciplinary committee over comments he made in a book serialised in a national newspaper last week. Page 22

LEGAL LESSON
Head teachers want parents to be forced to sign legally binding contracts preventing them from abusing or attacking teachers. Page 6

BEARDSLEY SIDELINED
Newcastle's Peter Beardsley and Gary Pallister of Manchester United will not be included in Terry Venables' squad for Euro 96. Page 22

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Yeltsin wins ceasefire in Chechnya

PHIL REEVES

Moscow
Boris Yeltsin yesterday boasted of achieving a "historic" agreement after signing a ceasefire deal with the Chechen leader in Moscow.

It is unclear how long the proclaimed ceasefire will last, but the agreement is a political coup for the Russian President. Russia has been mired in the conflict in Chechnya for 17 months and the war has been a political millstone around Mr Yeltsin's neck. The deal comes just ahead of presidential elections on 16 June.

This is a historic day, a historic moment," Mr Yeltsin said last night, after signing the deal with Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, successor to Dzhokhar Dudayev, who led Chechnya's bid for independence and was killed in a Russian rocket attack last month.

Both sides avoided the most difficult issue - Chechnya's demands for independence, which remain on the table. Chechen leaders continue to talk of secession. Moscow, on the other hand, treats Chechnya as part of the Russian federation.

The deal provides for a halt to military activity, an exchange of all prisoners within two weeks, and further negotiations. Poll boost, page 9

WHERE TO ACQUIRE A TASTE FOR OYSTERS



ROLEX

The seamless Oyster shell of a Rolex chronometer is hewn from a single block of stainless steel. 18ct. gold or platinum. Within it lies a self-winding movement that has taken over a year to create.

With prices starting at £1,155, the Oyster you always promised yourself is available from the Harrods Watch Department on the Ground Floor.

Not, we might add, from the Food Hall.

Harrods

Harrods, Knightsbridge SW1X 7XL. Telephone 0171-730-1234.
*Watch shown available in 18ct. yellow gold priced £900,
white gold £10,585 and platinum £16,995.

2
news

Prescott could rule the regions

JOHN RENTOUX
Political Correspondent

The bid by John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, for elbow room in a future Cabinet intensified yesterday, as his allies spoke about a role as "governor of the English regions" equivalent to Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

A source close to Mr Prescott confirmed that Tony Blair, the Labour leader, was discussing changes to the structure of Whitehall ministries, and that the deputy leader saw an opportunity for a top-level job bringing together the economic regeneration efforts of several departments.

"It is still being discussed, but there are a number of ways of pushing the goal of full em-

ployment, which was John's theme in the leadership election," the source said.

The plan could spark new conflict with Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, whose grip on economic policy has caused friction in the Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Prescott warned against an all-powerful "super Treasury" in a speech two weeks ago.

A Prescott supporter tried yesterday to suggest a mutual-acceptable division of responsibility, with Mr Brown responsible for macro-economic policy (taxes, public spending and interest rates) and Mr Prescott handling micro-economics (labour markets and company-level policy).

But he skirted round the most glaring doubt hanging over Mr Prescott's status in a speech two weeks ago.

A spokeswoman for Mr

Prescott said: "John thinks the

Labour government would inherit Michael Heseltine's Deputy Prime Minister title." "I'm sure John would like to do that job," he said.

The real question is what departmental responsibility Mr Prescott would have. The spokesman pointed out that the work of four government departments, transport, trade, environment and the employment functions of the Education Department, were already co-ordinated in 10 regional centres in England.

These could be answerable either directly to Mr Prescott, or to a Cabinet committee chaired by him, like the present committee chaired by Mr Heseltine.

A spokeswoman for Mr

Prescott said: "John thinks the

leader will decide who he wants in which job at the appropriate time. That's a rule that applies to everyone and John is quite happy with that."

A spokesman for Mr Blair said these were decisions that would be made in government.

Another tension was resolved yesterday when party officials confirmed that Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, will "phase himself out of the transport team" to take up a campaign role. Mr Wilson, who has clashed publicly with Clare Short, the shadow Secretary of State for Transport, will assume responsibility for the party's computer database, to be used for US-style "instant rebuttal" of Tory propaganda.

A Tory spokesman said yesterday that it would run on more sophisticated hardware than Labour's, at a cost of £500,000.

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sophisticated hardware than

Labour's, at a cost of £500,000.



Prescott: 'Leader will decide'



High life: Richard Owen, mayor of Beaumaris, north Wales, climbs across a farmhouse roof as part of the ancient "beating the bounds" ritual in the town. Once every seven years, local statute requires the mayor to "perambulate the boundaries". As the farmhouse straddles the borough boundary, the mayor has to climb over the top. Photograph: Rob Stratton

New meningitis scare

PAUL FIELD

Another British child was last night scared to have contracted meningitis in Majorca, the fifth to have fallen victim to the disease while holidaying on the Spanish island.

The six-year-old girl, who has not yet been named, may only have a cold, but was put under observation in Palma's Son Dordia hospital where five-year-old Michaela Leyland is being treated for the disease.

Majorca's director general of health, Dr Gines Martina Pina, said Michaela was stable. Her family, from Merseyside, were on a package holiday with

friends at the resort of Magaluf when she became the fourth child to be struck down.

Last Monday Christopher Richards, 13, from Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, died after contracting meningitis at the Alcudia Pins apartment complex on the north coast. Dr Pina said the six-year-old was staying with her parents in the resort of Cala Millor when they became worried about her and took her to a doctor.

He repeated his controversial

view that British tourists had imported the disease. "Our health authorities are becoming increasingly convinced that this is the case," he said.

The outbreak of verbal jousting appears to have its origin in worries within David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party that its campaign is not going well.

Reports are circulating that

rival parties, principally the Rev Ian Paisley's DUP and Robert McCartney's UK Unionists, are making a strong showing.

A poor performance for Mr Trimble would represent a serious blow to his credibility, in that he is regarded as the prime mover in pressing the Government to hold the election in the first place.

Voters go to the polls on Thursday to elect a 110-member forum, which will supply

most of the negotiators for the inter-party talks due to open on 10 June.

Mr Trimble's party yesterday called a news conference to warn voters against fracturing the unionist vote, in the process launching a strong attack on Mr

Paisley. John Taylor MP accused the DUP of "playing straight into the hands of Dublin", while Mr Trimble said Mr Paisley had formed an unlikely alliance with John Hume's SDLP for the purpose of doing down the Ulster Unionists.

Mr Paisley, in a swift response, accused Mr Trimble of selling the pass by, he said, being prepared to put the 1920 Government of Ireland Act, which set up the state of Northern Ireland, on the negotiating table. He said Mr Trimble "dreaded" the DUP,

adding: "He's not happy because he's losing out in this election."

Mr McCartney, of the small-

er UK Unionists, said Mr Trimble had turned down his suggestion of a united unionist front to fight the elections. Mr Trimble retorted: "Mr McCartney doesn't tell you that he broke off the discussion and rushed out of the door, pausing only to discharge an epithet in my direction."

With almost a dozen pro-union parties standing in the election, one unionist nightmare scenario is that the vote would splinter in such a way that the SDLP could, for the first time ever, win most votes. While not affecting any future negotiations, such an outcome would represent a major psychological setback for unionism.

Ulster poll: Trimble clashes with rivals as new group makes novel impact

Unionist squabbles bring prospect of SDLP victory

DAVID McKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

The previous low-key Northern Ireland election campaign finally flared into life yesterday as angry attacks and recriminations broke out among the major unionist parties.

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Coalition unites behind peace

Religious and social barriers have been cast aside, writes David McKittrick

Probably the most cheerful, relaxed and apparently self-confident of the 20 odd groupings contesting Thursday's forum elections in Northern Ireland is one of the most unorthodox - the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

The hastily-assembled association is attracting much attention, partly because of its novelty value and partly because, with this election's unique voting system, it stands a reasonable chance of winning one of the ten places at the table.

The 70 women standing for

the coalition typify a large number

who have shaken off the

traditionally deferential stance of

women in this conservative so-

ciet. Many play important

roles in the vibrant communi-

cation and voluntary sector to

which women have tended to gravitate in preference to mainstream politics.

This pattern was described yesterday by one candidate, Fidelma O'Gorman.

"Through my job as a health visitor I work

a lot on development with com-

munity groups. Over the years

I've seen women in action co-

operating with each other in a

cross-community way on so-

cial, economic issues, local

issues. It's not high-profile stuff, so a lot of people aren't aware of all this really good work."

Women in the coalition say it encompasses Protestant and Catholic, unionist and nationalist, republican and loyalist. They are pressing for a new ceasefire, and they emphasise that talks should be all-inclusive.

According to Avila Kilmurray: "People ask us what new things we can bring. Our answer is that we're not going to bring anything new in terms of constitutional politics, because all those views can and should be represented at the table.

"We're looking to try and facilitate solutions or actions rather than a point of view. We want the size and shape of the table, we're asking whether there are other ways of actually helping the process forward."

Pearl Sagar, a community worker from Protestant east Belfast, reflects the fact that many Catholic women have become more politicised more quickly than many Protestants. She says a lot of women she

knows do not vote. "I would have been one of those, I wouldn't have dreamt of voting

if I'd known what it was like to be involved."

"Women in general are often unsure of themselves, they tend to take on the politics of their husband or their father, because they're not sure or confident, but there's no reason why they shouldn't be."

Ms Sagar, who was wearing a ribbon in Suffragette colours, added: "We have to learn to negotiate with one another. You just can't get up and act childishly and leave the room if somebody says something you don't like. This is the time to do it, because if it doesn't work this time we don't know what's going to happen."

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Infant formula scare: Attack on government insistence that there is 'no cause for alarm' over fertility-threatening chemical

Delay over baby milk findings a 'shambles'

GLENDA COOPER

The Department of Health insisted yesterday that it was safe to use formula milk as pressure grew on the Government to name the brands affected by so-called "gender-bender" chemicals.

Doctors, politicians and consumer groups have now called on the Ministry of Agriculture to publish the results of tests which have shown that nine leading brands contained levels of phthalates which have been linked to impaired fertility.

When similar levels of the chemicals, used in plastic softening, were administered to baby rats in tests by the Medical Research Council their testicles were damaged and sperm counts were reduced.

But Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr Jeremy Metters said yesterday saying there was no need to be concerned.

"The Department of Health has seen the papers and there is no cause for alarm. Mothers should continue to use the infant formula that they have been feeding their babies."

So far tests have been carried out on nine leading brands, which all contained phthalates. The environmental pressure group Greenpeace yesterday called for all baby milk brands to be tested. Tim Boswell, the junior agriculture minister, agreed this was a possibility: "Obviously we need to go on and do a more thorough study."

But Labour's consumer spokesman Nigel Griffith said the Government's response had been a "shambles".

"How can it be that a Government department knew two months ago that a plastic softening chemical had got into manufactured baby milk at

higher than permitted levels, yet the source has not been tracked down and the minister refuses to give the names of the manufacturers," he said. "Instead he's giving the manufacturers another month or two to discover how this material got into the food chain. What a shambles."

Helena Charlton, secretary of the Infant and Dietetic Food Association, said she believed that all the major manufacturers and brands had been tested.

The companies had met twice with Maff and the plastics industry in an attempt to identify the source of the phthalates.

"We agreed it was going to be very difficult to locate the source," she said. "We've pretty much eliminated packaging as they do not use those chemicals anymore. We looked at the sacks that the raw materials came in, we also considered whether it was possible they were coming from the tubing that carries the milk."

"We even looked at the white overalls and wellingtons which are worn in factories in case they could have come into contact with the food source . . . We looked at whether it was in the rain which fell on the grass which the cows ate. It's going to be a long hard slog and I think we'll find it comes into many aspects of the food chain."

The immediate problem that mothers face is that while they do not want to feed their babies milk high in phthalates, the alternatives carry their own separate risks.

The Department of Health's official advice is that unmodified cow's milk should not be given to any child under one because of the risk of allergies.

Convenience is the best recipe

The early stage of parenthood is drudgery. It certainly has its inauspicious joys, but these are necessary rewards for the less than saintly parent.

Yet every so often there is new pressure for mothers to martyr themselves to their babies by doing what is most "natural". The periodic flaps about formula milk are a good example. I would not dream of challenging the medical evidence that breast milk is best. But the lectures we will hear about it again following the phthalates scare will overlook the disadvantages.

The first of these that only women can breastfeed. In many partnerships, although not my own, daddy gets the unbroken nights while mummy wakes on demand. Some new mothers find breast feeding painful or unpleasant. The assumption that it is a universally enjoyable bonding process is one of the soft-focus myths of motherhood.

Mothers who want to con-



DIANE COYLE

tinue in paid work generally start after two or three months. Rare is the job that can be fitted around feeds. Most of us have to leave bottles and jars with the childminder and could do without any extra guilt over abandoning home and infants for our jobs. Jars of baby mush are useful convenience foods, too, just like a Marks & Spencer chicken tikka masala. Great for the busy or the lazy.

Certainly, let us have formula milk and baby food free from chemicals. The discovery of a taint in some brands should be no excuse for bullying overburdened parents to conform to an oppressive ideal.

Don't give them this gooey mush

Weaning a baby is a messy and time consuming business, so the neat little jars of baby food labelled anything from "spring vegetable puree" to "apricot custard" seem an easy and obvious option for the busy mother. I soon discovered, however, that despite the tempting pictures and words on the labels the contents usually smell and taste disgusting. The baby spits out the gooey mush after a few mouthfuls, the half-full jar is left to rot in the fridge, and the expense quickly mounts up.

Although the jars and tins are marketed as convenience food, I think it is just as easy to mash a banana, or to peel and cook a few vegetables and whisk them up oneself. Once cooked the puree can be spooned into ice cube trays and frozen, and then used whenever and in as small quantities as you want. Sweet potato mashed with carrots looks, smells and tastes much nicer than cauliflower cheese out of a jar, and my baby thinks so too.



SARAH JEWELL

Despite the inventiveness of the food manufacturers, it is also far easier to introduce a baby to the wide range of flavours and foods that an adult eats, by setting aside a few mouthfuls of whatever one is cooking, than to rush out to the chemist or another jar of shepherd's pie or rhubarb custard.

Although we mothers are constantly assured that processed baby foods are perfectly safe, just as we are told by the manufacturers that formula baby-milk is as good as breast milk, there is only one way to be sure of what your baby is really eating and that is to buy and cook the food yourself.

SAS rebuilds its wall of silence

The recent avalanche of books and TV programmes about the SAS has probably spent itself with the news that the man who started it will not seek re-election as President of the SAS Regimental Association.

Within the close-knit world of former SAS men, it may signify ostracism. A Carlton TV series, *SAS - The Soldiers' Story*, begins this week, but with new MoD guidelines in place and increasing bitterness among serving and recently retired SAS men against the handful of retired soldiers who made capital of their earlier experiences, it is likely to be the last.

General Sir Peter de la Billière, who served with the SAS and was Britain's senior military figure in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, said he would not seek re-election as the SAS Association's chairman. He is widely seen as the instigator of the rash of SAS books and films.

Senior defence sources told the *Independent* last week that they did not believe Sir Peter

The élite army unit has closed ranks again, writes Christopher Bellamy

knew the effect that publication of the details of SAS operations during the Gulf in his book, *Storm Command*, would have. But having described the exploits of patrol Bravo Two-Zero, deployed in the western Iraqi desert to destroy Scud missiles, it was perhaps inevitable that surviving members of that patrol – one using the pseudonym Andy McNab, the other Chris Ryan – would publish their own accounts with spectacular publishing success.

Whereas McNab and Ryan undoubtedly witnessed the events they described, others may also have jumped on the bandwagon. And whereas the role of the SAS in the Gulf war was relatively straightforward, the SAS may also have been involved in other operations – against drug barons in South America and possibly in the former Soviet Union and Afghanistan – which the

IRA, the Falklands and the Gulf, is seen as less damaging than the dramatisation of Chris Ryan's book, *The One that Got Away*. The latter portrayed the SAS as badly prepared and incompetent.

The span of "revelations" led to the MoD breaking its traditional "no comment" rule on special forces in the latest Defence White Paper, published on 1 May. For the first time it featured a few paragraphs on the role of special forces.

There are fears within the Hereford-based Regiment itself and at the highest defence planning levels, that the mystique of the SAS has been damaged. Its mystique is as important a part of its blitting power as its professional competence; the worst thing you can do to suggest the SAS are very ordinary people, though tough, resilient and competent soldiers, who specialise in certain skills.

However, the Carlton TV series, which re-examines well-trodden ground about the Iranian embassy siege, the war

against the IRA, the Falklands and the Gulf, is seen as less damaging than the dramatisation of Chris Ryan's book, *The One that Got Away*. The latter portrayed the SAS as badly prepared and incompetent.

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A matter of bottle: Labour has attacked the Government's handling of the contamination of baby milk

Photograph: Edward Sykes

A long history of safety scares

DIET OF TROUBLE
GLENDA COOPER

The scare over phthalates in infant formula milk is just the latest in a series of fears over the safety of children's food.

Last June the Ministry of Agriculture announced that it would investigate research from New Zealand which suggested that soya milk extract could lead to raised levels of compounds known as phytoestrogens, which have been linked to declining sperm counts and raised infertility.

Research suggests that the amounts of powdered milks recommended by manufacturers could be the equivalent weight for weight, of feeding an infant more than three contraceptive pills each day.

Earlier in 1995 mothers were urged to breast-feed their babies after a study showed formula milk could affect brain cells. It was claimed that powdered milk might not have enough fatty acids, which play a vital role in neurological development.

Fears of tampering started in April 1989, when it was feared that ground glass had been put in babyfood.

A £100,000 reward was offered at one stage and a former Scotland Yard detective was arrested in connection with a £1m extortion racket from Heinz. Rodney Whitchelo was eventually sentenced to 17 years and Heinz estimated they had had to withdraw babyfood worth £30m from shelves.

In June 1993, 80,000 jars of Cow and Gate babyfood were cleared from shops because it was feared they may be contaminated with disinfectant. It was thought to be traced to a Dutch slaughterhouse.

Heinz also had to recall 150,000 cans of babyfood after six mothers reported finding pieces of metal in their children's meals.

And in 1992 medical experts called for babyfood containers with anti-tampering devices to be made safer after a baby almost choked when he inhaled part of one.

Why processed is not the best

JOJO MOYES

Until relatively recently, the words "baby food" conjured up nothing more exciting than a bit of stewed apple and a rusk.

Now, however, as well as a wide selection of formula milks, the discerning baby can choose from a massive selection with labels such as "Fisherman's Surprise" or even "Carrots and coriander risotto".

For working mothers, the relentless growth of processed baby foods has been welcome. It has freed up valuable time, and means that even the fussiest baby can be catered for.

Despite a flurry of contamination scares in recent years, fierce competition and advertising have led to a boom in the British industry, which is now

worth more than £400m, compared to £191m in 1989.

Eighty per cent of Britain's 1 million babies aged between four and 20 months are eating and drinking their way through sales worth more than £120m a year.

And why not, when the manufacturers' labels suggest that their baby milks and foods are additive-free, sugar-free and perhaps even healthier than anything a mother could make herself?

But some nutritional bodies are among those questioning whether processed is, in fact, best.

Only two of 11 formula milks for babies tested by scientists at South Bank University in Feb-

ruary provided enough selenium to meet the Health Department's recommendation of 10mg a day.

Some dishes contained the starch maltodextrin – more commonly used as a gum on postage stamps, while several baby drinks contained more sugar than Coca-Cola.

Fromage frais has been another baby-food boom market since it crossed the Channel in 1985.

Some manufacturers say that packs state clearly that their fromage frais is not suitable for babies under six months.

But many mothers choose it when babies try solids at three to four months because it is easy to serve, and babies like its creamy taste.

While a good source of protein and calcium, a survey found that fromage frais may

contain colourings, starch thickeners and preservatives such as E202, which, while approved for use, is still considered suspect by some experts after causing liver damage in test animals.

The popular little pots were also found to contain massive levels of sugar: one had the equivalent of four sugar lumps as well as unnecessary additives.

But while there are controls regarding artificial additives, salts and sugars in baby foods, there are fewer restrictions on products targeted at children.

Many confectioners are increasing levels of E numbers, despite concerns about their links to hyperactivity and other disorders. One brand of sweets, for example, contains six colourings, three of which are banned in several countries.

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Some manufacturers say

4 news

Homosexual priests: Opponents warn that the Archbishop's failure to condemn robs Anglican Communion of meaning

Carey calls for tolerance as US ordains gays

ANDREW BROWN
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has appealed again for tolerance and the acceptance of division in the Anglican world. He was speaking during a visit to the United States, at a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the diocese of Los Angeles where the bishop has admitted to ordaining active homosexual priests.

Dr Carey's opposition to such ordinations is well-known. But his refusal to condemn them was yesterday attacked by a leading English opponent of gay priests, who warned that such equivocation would rob the structures of the Anglican Communion of all meaning.

"I think he's got to make it plain for the avoidance of doubt that the ordination of practising homosexuals is totally unacceptable within the Anglican Communion and a failure to do that will have serious consequences," said the Rev David Holloway, Rector of Jesmond, Newcastle.

Dr Holloway was one of the architects of the General Synod

motion of 1987 condemning homosexual acts, which has since been partially replaced by more gay-friendly statements from the bishops and archbishops of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church of America, though it acknowledges Dr Carey's primacy and welcomes his visits, takes little notice of any Archbishop of Canterbury. At the same time the Church of England's General Synod has been trying to hold the line against openly gay priests in Britain. The US has seen a period of advances for the pro-gay lobby. Bishop Walter Righter, who last year became the first American bishop to be tried for heresy since 1923, was acquitted just before Dr Carey arrived in the US from Bermuda, where he had been consecrating a bishop.

Bishop Righter's "crime" had been to ordain a gay priest, knowing that he was involved in a relationship. The court did not pronounce on whether this was right or wrong, but it concluded that there was no core doctrine of the episcopal church to prohibit his action: it is up to individual bishops' discretion to

consecrate a bishop.

"Leadership does demand that at certain points certain things have to be ruled out," said Dr Holloway when he heard of this. However, Dr Carey has put forward the view that the contribution of the Anglican Communion to world Christianity lies in its graceful handling of profound disagreements.



Solemn parade: Priests en route to Mass process to Little Walsingham priory, Norfolk, yesterday during the annual pilgrimage commemorating the sighting of a vision of the Virgin Mary at the spot in 1061.

Photograph: Peter MacDiarmid

1 OLIVER—THIS STUFF HAS TO GO TO RILEY'S IMMEDIATELY.

2 LATER... RILEY'S HAVEN'T GOT THAT STUFF YET. WHAT'S HAPPENING?

3 I DON'T KNOW — IT SHOULD BE THERE. I PUT IT ON A BIKE THREE HOURS AGO.

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Tory MPs say donors should be disclosed

JOHN RENTOU
Political Correspondent

Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, is coming under growing pressure to disclose the sources of large donations to Tory funds as his inquiries continue into money received from Serbian business Zoran Janic.

Several Tory MPs yesterday said they agreed with the call from Lord Laing, a former Tory treasurer, for the party to make public the identities of all donors giving more than £25,000.

Former Cabinet minister John Biffen said that, above a minimum, "all contributions should be made public — even more so in respect of contributions from foreigners".

David Wilshire, the Tory MP for Spelthorne who, like Mr Biffen, rebelled against the Prime

Minister to vote in favour of the disclosure of MPs' outside earnings last November, said: "If there is public anxiety, then the way to put it to rest is to disclose. If it is something that is going to be used against us, then all the Nolan arguments apply."

Most Tory MPs, however, held back from calling on Dr Mawhinney to return "tainted" donations from Mr Tanic and the fugitive tycoon Asil Nadir.

Stephen Day, Tory MP for Cheadle, told the *Independent* that the party should "think very carefully" about the public reaction to the Tanic and Nadir donations. "If I was party chairman I would put it as top priority to respond to public opinion on this," he said.

Meanwhile, the Tory Central Office inquiry has turned out to be more complex than party officials originally thought.

Yesterday, the *Independent* revealed that Mr Tanic is in business with a Russian accused of "channelling state money" into his own pockets. And there have also been reports of a donation in 1992 from a different source connected to Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, who is wanted for war crimes. This donation was said to have been returned after the Prime Minister was warned about it by MI6.

Dr Mawhinney is still under pressure to return most of the £440,000 donated by Asil Nadir, boss of the collapsed Polly Peck empire. Tory Central Office received a report three years ago from Touche Ross, the City accountants, confirming its view that £365,000 of the donation had been stolen from the company.

Central Office again refused to comment yesterday.

Area treasurers' report for 1995-96

POSITION	AREA	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CONSTITUENCIES		% OF TARGET	LOANS
		TARGET	PAID		
1	South-Western	£35,486	£26,909	70.6	£40,939
2	Wessex	285,474	191,310	67.0	£35,038
3	Wales	£6,024	£4,714	66.2	£9,300
4	Scotland	£92,671	£53,360	57.6	£213,999
5	Northern	£49,108	£18,517	37.7	£79,500
6	Western	£243,990	£74,547	30.6	£351,881
7	Yorkshire	£160,339	£48,885	30.5	£96,000
8	Greater London	£334,054	£97,844	29.3	£223,491
9	West Midlands	£293,830	£83,556	28.5	£222,930
10	North West	£258,799	£69,999	27.0	£435,709
11	East Midlands	£244,515	£63,546	26.0	£165,404
12	Eastern	£370,853	£96,125	25.9	£306,828
Total		£2,746,798	£1,107,652	40.3	£3,405,019

Loans allow backers to provide 'secret' funding

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Tory grassroots supporters are turning their backs on the party by refusing to give straight cash payments and insisting that any money they do give is in the form of loans.

Confidential internal party figures leaked to the *Independent* reveal an increasing reluctance among constituency associations to dip into their pockets. The figures, which cover the party region by region, raise further questions as to where Central Office is getting its funding from.

In the last few weeks, party sources have been bullishy declaring their cash crisis is over, and it may be that corporate donors who no longer wish to be publicly identified as benefactors are also offering the party loans. Unlike a cash payment, which should be declared as a political donation in company accounts, a loan can be hidden.

A company is under no obligation to declare it and if it is not repaid, the money can be written off as a bad debt.

The constituencies certain-

ly appear to favour this method of funding. In the financial year to the end of March (see table), they only met 40.3 per cent of the target set by Central Office — £1.107m in donations against a target of £2.746m.

This total was £33,000 down on the 1994-95 tally of £1.140m. Not only is the overall figure down but performance is also waning: the 1994-95 tally was 42.5 per cent of target, against 40.3 per cent this time.

While cash donations are down, however, constituencies are happy to make loans, with areas where Tory support is currently weakest among the biggest lenders. North West, for instance, made donations of £69,999 but loaned £435,709.

The figures will fuel suspicions that the Tories are relying on private benefactors who they refuse to name and new ways of boosting their finances.

Long-time corporate donors have scaled back their funding in the last few years, with many companies, such as Glaxo and Whitbread ceasing to give altogether. Party treasurers maintain, however, that corporate support has remained fairly

steady, at around £2m a year. This, plus this latest set of constituency totals, adds to the mystery of where the money is coming from. Party insiders maintain they have received at least £10m in donations in the past 12 months. The party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, announced in March that the overdraft, which had been as high as £15m was down to £2.5m.

Increasingly, they are going down the loan route for their money. Constituencies are preferring to give loans at low rates of interest. They are provided on such long repayment terms as to be non-returnable, but most associations insert a clause saying they can be repaid at short notice if required.

For constituencies, loans are proving more popular than cash because it enables them to keep a hold over their money and to feel it has not been swallowed for ever. Private individuals and companies are also being encouraged to give loans. Central Office sources have confirmed that corporate donors are being canvassed to make loans if they feel worried about being publicly revealed as Tory backers.

Treasures revive the legend of El Dorado

DAVID KEYS
Archaeology Correspondent

One of the world's greatest collections of ancient South American gold has gone on display for the first time. Most of the 209 items — all but one of which are owned by the British Museum — have never previously been seen by the public.

The exhibition at the Museum of Mankind in central London (which is the British Museum's ethnography department) features spectacular golden masks, helmets, breast plates, statues and even a golden crown from 23 South and Central American cultures.

The British Museum built up its ancient South American gold collection between the 1820s and the 1940s, but until now has never put it on show.

Many pieces, dating from the 1st to 15th century, are of great international importance and outside the Americas it is among the world's three best collections of pre-Columbian gold-work.

Gold — thought by ancient South Americans to embody the energising powers of the sun — was used in considerable quantities by native cultures. This sowed in the mind of the Spanish *conquistadores* the belief that the New World was awash with gold; an idea which led to the popularity of the El Dorado legend.

Although countless gold-hunting expeditions tried in vain to locate the riches of El Dorado, the exhibition does feature 54 exquisite gold objects from Colombia's Muisca culture of more than 1,000 years ago which probably produced the historical basis for the legend — a royal coronation ritual in which a native king covered himself with gold dust and threw golden treasures into a deep volcanic lake.

El Dorado means "The Gilded One" (referring to the king) and the exhibition, to last at least a year, features a golden votive figurine — a warrior with spear and shield — dredged from the lake by treasure-hunters in the last century.

Among the most beautiful ancient Colombian items on dis-

play are an array of ceremonial golden helmets and flasks, some of which feature naked humans, which may have been used in fertility rituals.

The flasks were used to aid ritual consumption of cocaine. Minute quantities of the drug were ingested by chewing coca-leaves. The ability to absorb the stimulant was then enhanced by chewing alkaline powder made of crushed shells which was stored in the golden flasks.

There are also several masks with their "eyes" closed, perhaps signifying the mind's concentration on contact with the spirit, rather than the human world.

From Peru — probably from the great Temple of the Sun, the sacred centre of the Inca empire — comes a small but exquisite pair of gold earrings.

From ancient Panama there is a fascinating little three-dimensional plaque featuring eight musicians playing conch-shell trumpets and flutes.

From pre-Columbian Costa Rica are a variety of golden animals — frogs, birds and alligators — and winged humans, possibly priests engaging in spirit flight, a religious practice for which the South and Central American Indian priests were famed.

But perhaps most fascinating of all is a 700-year-old crown from Ecuador. A wide band of solid gold decked with a golden feather, it was originally worn by a ruler of a tribal federation in what is now Southern Ecuador. The crown, given by the Ecuadorian president to Queen Victoria in 1854, remains the property of the British Crown.

At the British Museum, scientific analysis has just been carried out on 30 of the exhibits and more tests are planned. Using scanning electron microscopy, X-ray imaging and metal and mineral analysis, the museum's scientists will at last be able to tease out of these ancient art treasures the technical details of exactly how they were made.

The exhibition is at the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (admission free).



Gilded image: From the exhibition, a Colombian cast gold mask of a figure with ear-rings and nose ornament

DAILY POEM

The Dreaming Bean

By Katherine Pierpoint

*This is the germinal spot of gathering green.
A close-curved, blissful fist
Of dreaming bean, milk-wet opal in the pod.*

*Held in the damp, white hollow of down,
The touch of light sifts through slim walls of sap
Circling, drifting cool and fine, to a whisper.*

*A juicebubble; single, withdrawn membrane,
Sphere of spun water, held high to the sun
In convergent slipstreams of light and air.*

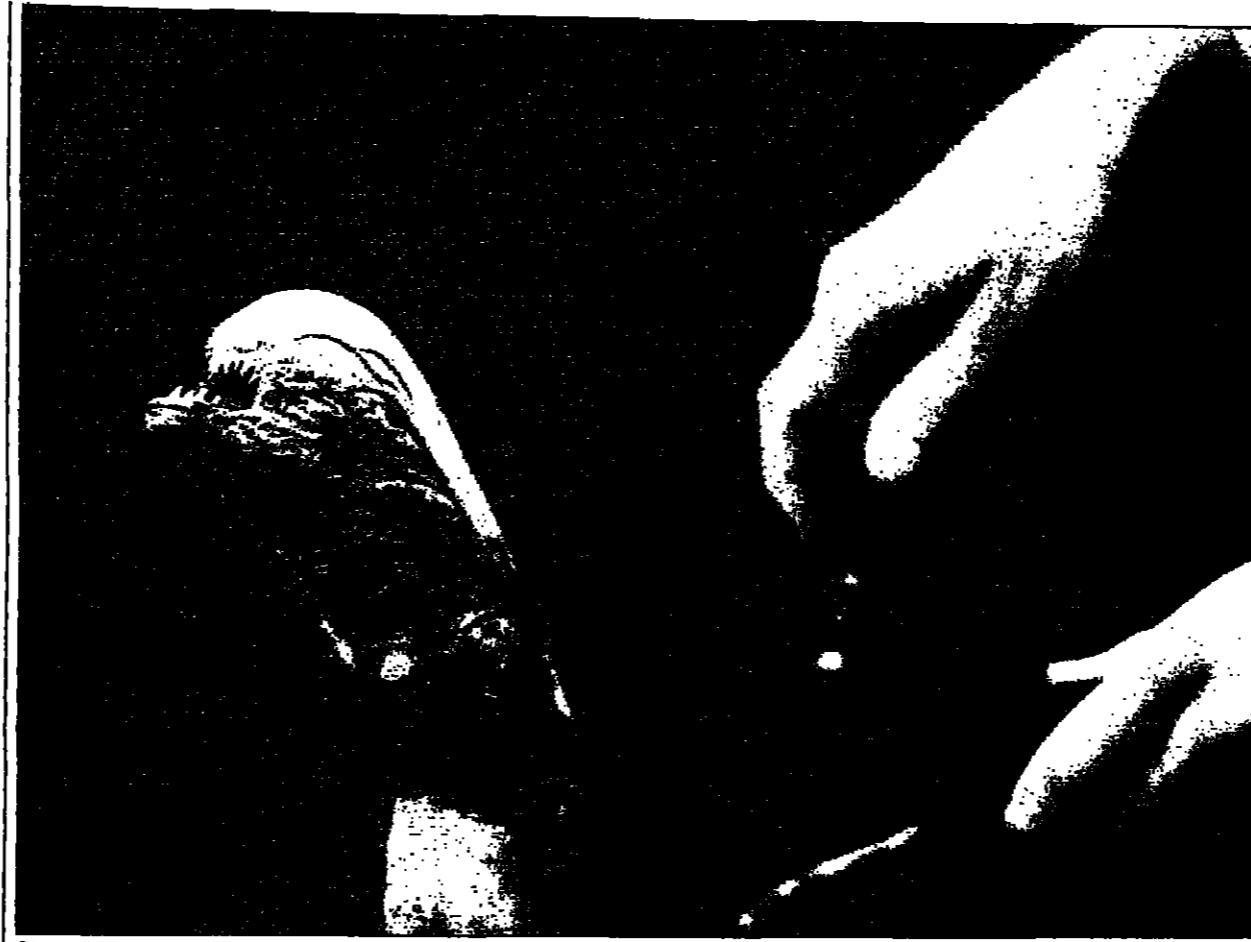
*Not yet a thing of earth, the bean lies curled and
Swelling into itself, welling like a favourite thought.
Its stem is a pointing finger, to focus colour, meaning and delight.*

*The stem refines, and then instils a greater world:
A gathering up and soundless pouring into a quiet green pool.
A flow of growing vision into the beholding eye.*

*The pod moves — small wimple, turning on the breeze —
And steadily again. The dreaming bean
Makes the slightest of slipping squeaks against the skin
Like a wet finger on the boat's white hull.*

*A drop of breathing seasound in the sappy shell,
Starting to dream of changing state,
Of forming the sap to smoothness,
Of forming two soft, mirror-linked halves;
This bean, the young old milk-tooth of the earth.*

Katherine Pierpoint was last week awarded the prestigious Somerset Maugham Award for her first collection, published by Faber in 1994, *Truff Bedz*. The award, created in Somerset Maugham's lifetime to permit young British writers under the age of 35 to spend time on foreign travel, has at different times passed to Martin Amis, VS. Naipaul, and John le Carré, amongst others. Pierpoint, unusually for a contemporary poet, has a Scheherazadean sense of her art, twisting and turning her narratives into startling and compelling conclusions.



Chest infection: The monster that bugged John Hurt, with some of its animation tubes. Photograph: Kalph Lathigra

Earthly price for 'Alien' beastie

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

First seen erupting from John Hurt's chest, the monster that formed the centrepiece of the film *Alien* goes on sale next month. Those with £20,000 to spend can discover the workings of the puppet that horrified Sigourney Weaver and Hurn in Ridley Scott's 1979 film.

It is being sold at Phillips' Bayswater on 18 June by Roger Dicken, the special-effects expert who made the "beastie".

"The alien was a very simple model although it had to be very lifelike," Mr Dicken said. "He had a lot of working inside a very small frame. So if anything had gone wrong we would have been in great trouble ... It is the actual creature which came breathing, pulsating and screaming out of John Hurt's chest."

That special effect was no easy thing to achieve. "I was positioned under the table on which John Hurt appeared to be lying, although in fact his body

went through the table to create the effect," Mr Dicken said. "I operated the beast with my right hand, pushing it up through a false chest-piece fitting to John Hurt and filled with animal intestines and blood pipes from an abattoir."

"Simultaneously, I pumped the creature's chest with an air tube in my left hand and various assistants squeezed other air tubes that I'd fitted running through the middle to activate his tiny arms, gills and saliva."

"It was not remotely scary in real life. Although the beastie obviously created a bit of film history, I do feel he was the least artistic of the many things I've created."

Mr Dicken, a veteran of the *Dr Who* special-effects department, now makes fantasy figures for collectors. "I've got no time for the horror movies of today," he said. "There's far too much gratuitous violence; and there's an awful waste of money ... But special effects have moved on. They're obviously far superior — just not the films."

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news

Headteachers' conference: Delegates seek sanctions against violent parents

Schools' contracts 'need legal backing'

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Parents should be forced to sign legally binding contracts preventing them from abusing or attacking teachers at their children's schools, headteachers say.

The National Association of Head Teachers' (NAHT) conference, which starts today in Torquay, Devon, will hear calls for new sanctions to deal with violent mothers and fathers who prevent schools from disciplining their children.

With classroom disruption and explosion high on the political agenda, ministers are bound to come under new pressure to give schools new powers to deal with them.

Tomorrow, delegates will argue that parents, as well as pupils, are part of the problem. A small but growing number are disrupting the work of schools and are placing both heads and staff in a vulnerable position, they will say.

Some waste teachers' time by refusing to allow their children to be kept in detention, while a few threaten violence. Others make false allegations against staff which often include suggestions that their children have been victimised.

Jenny Simpson, president of the New Forest association of the NAHT, will tell the conference that the law should be strengthened so that such parents can be called swiftly to account.

"Abuse and aggression by a few parents has a detrimental effect on the whole school community and it wastes valuable time. Its victims can often become traumatised," she told the *Independent*.

Large classes up 7% in primaries

FRAN ABRAMS

Four out of ten primary school children are taught in classes of more than 30, according to figures that have been released to the Labour Party.

David Blunkett, the party's education spokesman, will highlight the rise in class sizes when he speaks to the NAHT conference on Thursday.

The figures for January 1995 show a 7 per cent increase in the proportion in classes with more than 30 pupils since the previous year, taking the total to 1.6 million. They also show that the number of primary pupils in classes of over 40 have risen by 27 per cent in a single year, from 14,000 to 18,000.

No class size figures are available yet for 1996, although the Department for Education and Employment admitted last week that the number of pupils per teacher was continuing to rise. In primary schools there are now 23.2 pupils for every teacher compared with 22.5 last year.

Binding contracts which they would have to sign before their children started school could set out both their rights and their responsibilities, Ms Simpson will argue.

The contracts, which already exist in many schools but which have no legal status, often ask parents to bring children to school regularly and on time, to support the school's discipline code and to accept its ethos. In return, the school agrees to provide a caring environment, challenging lessons and regular information on the child's progress.

Rosie Shaw, the association's director of professional services, said that schools were being asked to uphold society's moral values without any legal backing. She was particularly critical of appeals panels on exclusions, which have sparked strike threats twice in the last month by returning disruptive pupils to schools.

"When the school gives a detention the parent can refuse.

When the school excludes a pupil - always a last resort - the governors uphold it then three people dragged in off the street overturn it. There are a whole raft of issues about parental responsibility that their children have been victimised.

Mrs Simpson, president of the New Forest association of the NAHT, will tell the conference that the law should be strengthened so that such parents can be called swiftly to account.

"Abuse and aggression by a few parents has a detrimental effect on the whole school community and it wastes valuable time. Its victims can often become traumatised," she told the *Independent*.



Dry Wight: Unless water is available at crucial times, crops might be blighted or not grow at all

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Farmers unite to beat the drought

ROS WINN-JONES

With this summer's drought threatening Britain's fruit and vegetable crops, farmers on the Isle of Wight are congratulating themselves on their innovative irrigation measures that may save the island's produce.

After last year's problems with drought, several farmers formed a collective with the aim of sharing water and digging winter storage reservoirs to collect water during the wetter months of the year. It took a court case against the National Rivers Authority and a great deal of work digging reservoirs, but this summer the farmers are facing the weather with a little more confidence.

Conference delegates will defend the decision, which has led to criticism that they are prepared to ask governors to break the law but not to do so themselves.

Among the other issues to be raised at the conference will be the headteachers' proposed boycott of league tables for 11-year-olds. The association is asking school governors to withhold their test results so that ministers cannot publish them next spring.

Conference delegates will defend the decision, which has led to criticism that they are prepared to ask governors to break the law but not to do so themselves.

ous". "It's certainly worse than last year," she said. "At least last year there had been fairly heavy rainfall throughout the winter so there was more water in the ground." The areas most likely to be affected were East Anglia, the South, Yorkshire and the Severn Trent.

Supermarkets have also been expressing concern about the impact of the water shortage on the food industry. "If we don't get a substantial amount of rain soon, then we must prepare for a very low crop yield this year," said Colin Kitchen, a technologist for Tesco. Some fields were so dry that crops had yet to germinate and in Lincolnshire low-lying land had not recovered from last year's drought.

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's said: "If the dry spell continues we are looking at a very

difficult summer with regard to quality vegetable availability."

The Environment Agency said the outlook for agricultural water supplies was "uncertain", with the possibility of restrictions in many areas. The agency is warning farmers to look

carefully at the total resource of an area should be available to the total population.

said Colin Boswell, of Mersley Farm, Newchurch.

"The regulations of the National Rivers Authority were preventing us from doing that. If I had too much water and my neighbour didn't have enough, then under the law I couldn't give any to him because I could only use the amount the NRA licence allows."

The matter was eventually settled in court, with the NRA agreeing to allow the farmers to use their water more efficiently.

Like other farms around the country, particularly in East Anglia, the Isle of Wight collective also began building collective reservoirs across the island to trap winter rainfall. Mr Boswell, who farms 1,000 acres of sweetcorn and 30 acres of garlic for a supermarket chain, said: "The water is now available to us this summer and we can use it without any restrictions being applicable. Before, the water was just going out to the sea."

A neighbouring potato farmer, Maurice Flux, said farmers on the island had a history of solidarity. "There's a group of us who all supply the same supermarket chain. Every year we find out what the su-

permarket wants and then each farm grows the crops which are best suited to the land of that farm. I grow potatoes, but also grow some sweetcorn for Mr Boswell."

Water dramatically affects the quality of a crop, he says, and whether water is available at crucial times will affect everything from whether vegetables have blemishes to whether they grow at all.

Mrs Smyth says the principles applied by the Isle of Wight collective could be used elsewhere in the country. "Farmers are having to become more self-reliant," she says. "Because of the changing climate it is now necessary to find methods that don't leave so much of farming to chance. Whether there is enough rainfall is an act of God - and that puts farmers in a very unpredictable position."

Union officials believe the company has not reviewed the recruitment method because the truck fleet is probably the most powerful section of workers at Ford. The lorries take parts to plants all over western Europe. Because component stocks are always kept to a minimum, a strike in the truck fleet would bring Ford's European operation to a standstill within days.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G, said the union would prefer to settle the issue through negotiation. "Equality is an industrial relations issue which you cannot deal with through the courts. The company should meet the union to discuss proper equal opportunities practices and stop hiding behind parades policies."

Recently, controversy surrounded the export to Britain of two bronze cannon made by the Owen brothers, gunsmiths to King Henry VIII and Edward VI. They were removed illegally from a wreck in Tramore Bay, Co Waterford.

Their legal ownership is now being contested between the Royal Armouries in London and Ireland's National Museum.

Adverts 'inappropriate' after Dunblane deaths

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

The issue of advertisement scheduling after a tragedy will re-open today after a television watchdog upheld complaints about campaigns shown shortly after the Dunblane massacre.

The Independent Television Commission received complaints from 17 viewers after the murder of 16 Scottish schoolchildren six weeks ago, although it said commercial channels took pains to "act sensitively".

A spokesman for Mrs Shephard said that the report from the chief inspector of schools had supported the view of the Secretary of State. The proportion of children in single-teacher classes of more than 30, without any kind of help, had dropped from 35 per cent in 1979 to 30 per cent today, he said.

Large classes were often the result of a school putting children together for music, drama or sport, he added.

The ITC upheld the complaints, despite GMTV's de-

fence that the original schedule - the bereavement programme had been extended - would have avoided the juxtaposition. It was "regrettable", the watchdog said.

It also upheld a complaint objecting to an advertisement for Woolworth's Ladybird clothes which featured young children looking sad as their clothes were put away to a soundtrack of the song "We'll Meet Again".

It was shown on the day of the shooting and on two following days.

But the commission gave credit to Meridian and Channel Television for withdrawing the advertisement as soon as TSMS, the scheduling company, received objections.

The third advertisement which prompted complaints was for Lee Jeans. It showed a man firing a shotgun at his daughter's boyfriend. Four viewers felt it was inappropriate to show the advert on Channel 4 in the week of the

shooting, a view upheld by the commission.

The ITC also ruled that it would have been "preferable" for Channel 4 to suspend the trailer for the film *Get Shorty*, which featured shooting scenes, at least in the week following the tragedy.

But it added: "The television companies and the sales houses acting on their behalf all have procedures for identifying programming and developing news stories that might require the rescheduling of particular advertisements."

"These procedures were put into effect after the news of the Dunblane killings became known and a number of advertisements with potentially sensitive content were temporarily removed from the schedules and others were rescheduled."

"All this was carried out at very short notice. The ITC is satisfied that, in the main, the television companies acted responsibly and sensitively."

Police in the west of Ireland have thwarted an attempt to steal and export a valuable early Christian carved stone head from a graveyard in Co Clare.

One of a pair, the whereabouts of the second head is unknown but it is one of the latest antiquities stolen for sale to collectors in Britain, Germany and the United States according to police and museum curators.

The life-sized grey stone head-and-shoulders effigies of a bishop looking down on an abbey date from the 12th century.

They disappeared separately from the remains of an early Christian church in Kilmacreevy in August 1992 and October 1993.

One has been found by a local farmer hidden on his land.

Police believe they know the identity of the thief, and hope to recover the second head.

Other thefts in Co Clare have included conical stones

from toll gates at Sixmilebridge and items from graveyards.

Police foil theft of Irish stone relic

ALAN MURDOCH
Dublin

Garda John Paul of Lahinch, who has worked in the county for 25 years, said: "There are stones going all the time from sites around the Burren. It's a pity because none of these things can be left out any more. For a while everything was left out and nothing would go. There were also a lot of antiquities on farms which people didn't realise were important."

Experts say London is the single biggest market for stolen or illegally exported Irish relics.

"The British are notoriously bad at introducing either internal controls to protect heritage or co-operating internationally," one Irish expert complained.

Recently, controversy surrounded the export to Britain of two bronze cannon made by the Owen brothers, gunsmiths to King Henry VIII and Edward VI. They were removed illegally from a wreck in Tramore Bay, Co Waterford.

Their legal ownership is now being contested between the Royal Armouries in London and Ireland's National Museum.

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Ford accused of racial bias over jobs

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

The Ford Motor Company, renowned for its high-minded equal opportunities policies, is facing a legal challenge over alleged racism.

Black and Asian production workers at Dagenham claim they were refused transfers to jobs as £30,000-a-year lorry drivers because the selection system was biased against them.

One already held a Heavy Goods Vehicle licence and two others qualified shortly after they were refused a job.

The Transport and General Workers' Union is backing the "Dagenham Seven" in industrial tribunal cases against Ford. The company is highly sensitive about the ethnic make-up of the 300-strong truck-fleet workforce, based at the Essex plant, and will claim in the tribunals next month that there was no discrimination in the case of the seven litigants.

Union lawyers will argue that the company has presided over institutionalised racism. It is alleged that the selection process has often meant that the highly sought-after jobs are passed from father to son. The drivers earn twice as much as their colleagues on the production lines.

The union's pursuit of the case has caused bitter internal division at the T&G because shop stewards in the truck fleet argue that selection is based on merit.

Between 40 and 45 per cent of the manual workforce at Dagenham is of ethnic minority origin, but only around 2 per cent of the truck fleet.

In 1990, when the seven were refused lorry drivers' jobs, only three out of 29 successful applicants were from ethnic minorities. Some 143 white workers applied and 53 non-white. It is understood that all 16 drivers recruited last summer were white.

The union will also allege that some of truck-fleet supervisors responsible for selection made racist comments at an equal opportunities course that the company had arranged.

Union officials believe the company has not reviewed the recruitment method because the truck fleet is probably the most powerful section of workers at Ford. The lorries take parts to plants all over western Europe. Because component stocks are always kept to a minimum, a strike in the truck fleet would bring Ford's European operation to a standstill within days.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the T&G, said the union would prefer to settle the issue through negotiation. "Equality is an industrial relations issue which you cannot deal with through the courts. The company should meet the union to discuss proper equal opportunities practices and stop hiding behind parades policies."

Earlier this year Ford was at the centre of a row over an "ethnically cleansed" photograph. Black and Asian workers were invited to pose with white colleagues to show the racial mix at Dagenham, but when they saw the promotional literature the black and brown faces were replaced by white ones.

The workers concerned each received £1,500 compensation for "hurt feelings". An advertising agency had decided to change the picture for use in Poland because the population there was overwhelmingly white. The amended photograph appeared in Britain by mistake.

Ford accused of racial bias over jobs

The future of British television is at stake in the £800m fight for rights to football action

MATHEW HORSMAN and PATRICK TOOHER

The biggest television contract in British sport is again up for grabs. At stake: a staggering amount of money. For the rights to broadcast matches of the Premiership, the country's top football attraction, the winners may have to stump up £800m over five years, including exclusive rights to live games, highlights and overseas sales.

This is about more than football. Brian Barwick of BBC Sport, said: "Sport has an important role in bringing the nation together." He may well be right. As many as 9 million people tuned in to the European Cup final on ITV last week.

It is also about the future of television, and who controls it. For at some point during the next five years, the digital revolution will come to British television, allowing broadcasters to transmit far more programmes along the same frequencies. The result will be hundreds of new channels and technological innovation that will make the introduction of colour in the 1960s look like a minor design upgrade.

In that environment, football becomes what one Premiership official calls "hot property" – one of the few kinds of programming viewers will actually pay subscription fees to see. The door will be open to pay-per-view broadcasts, allowing viewers to select the games they want to watch, even the camera angle they prefer.

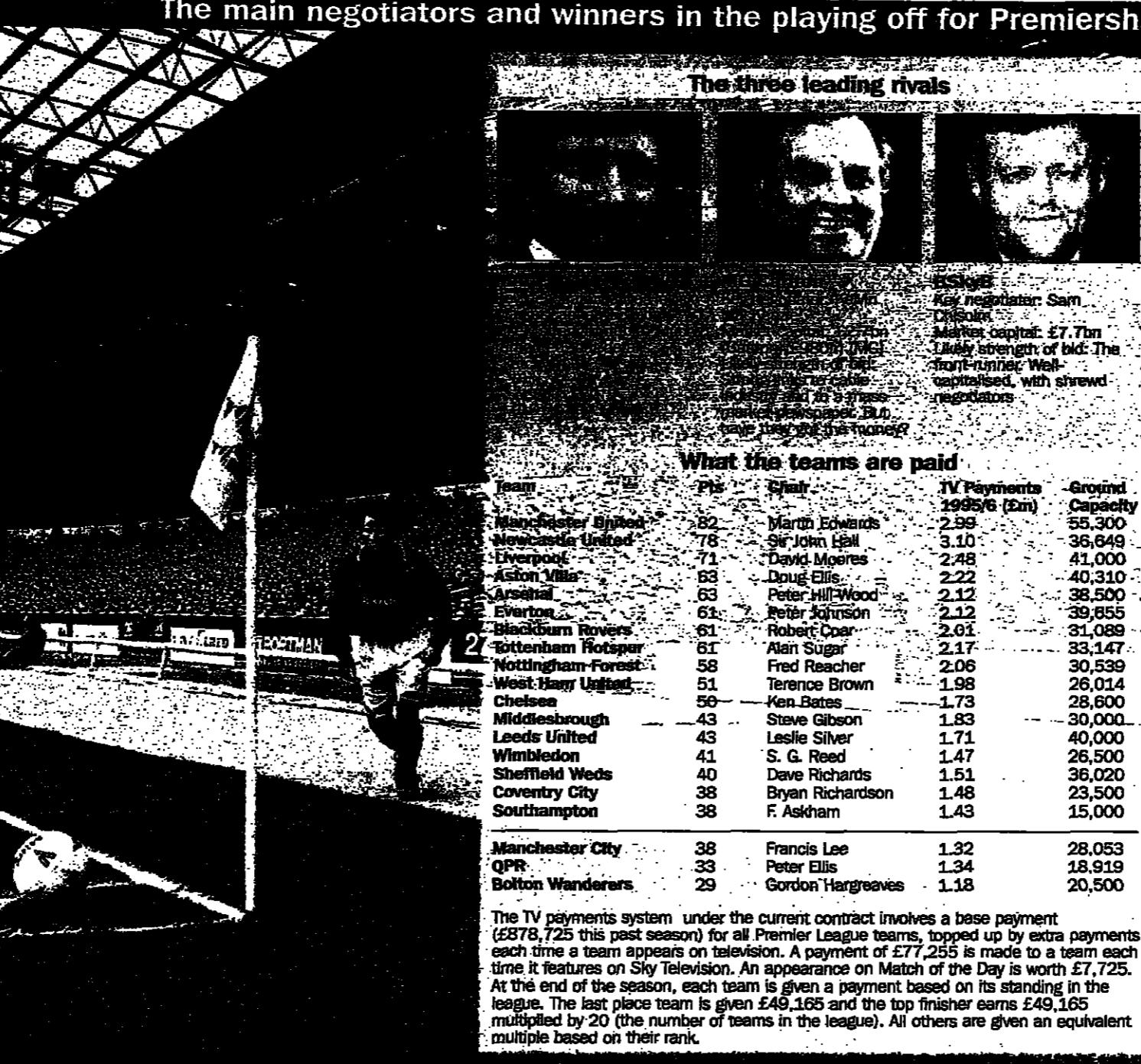
We are a long way from the days of the duopoly, when the BBC and ITV divided up the spoils of footie on telly, and the clubs earned paltry sums. The Premiership knows it; the broadcasters know it. Since 1992, when BSkyB signed an exclusive contract with the breakaway Premier League, it has emerged as the country's most profitable broadcaster, earning £250m this year alone.

The current contract, which still has a season to run, provides the clubs about £60m a year, or £305m over five years, including £4.5m a year from the BBC for Match of the Day highlight rights, and £1.4m annually from overseas.

The BBC and the ITV have gone head to head in the current contract negotiations, hoping to secure rights to the

The main negotiators and winners in the playing off for Premiership millions

The three leading rivals



Left Negotiator Sam Chisholm
Centre Capital £7.7bn
Right Strength of bid: The
front-runner Well-
capitalised, with shrewd
negotiators

What the teams are paid

Team	Pts	Chair	TV Payments £878,725 (Est)	Ground Capacity
Newcastle United	80	Martin Edwards	2.98	55,300
Manchester United	78	Sir John Hall	3.10	36,649
Liverpool	71	David Moore	2.48	41,000
Aston Villa	63	Doug Ellis	2.22	40,310
Arsenal	63	Peter Hill-Wood	2.12	38,500
Everton	63	Peter Johnson	2.12	39,855
Blackburn Rovers	63	Robert Coe	2.01	31,089
Premier League	63	Alan Sugar	2.17	33,147
Nottingham Forest	58	Fred Reacher	2.06	30,539
West Ham United	51	Terence Brown	1.98	26,014
Chelsea	50	Ken Bates	1.73	28,600
Middlesbrough	43	Steve Gibson	1.83	30,000
Leeds United	43	Leslie Silver	1.71	40,000
Wimbledon	41	S. G. Reed	1.47	26,500
Sheffield Weds	40	Dave Richards	1.51	36,020
Coventry City	38	Bryan Richardson	1.48	23,500
Southampton	38	F. Askham	1.43	15,000
Manchester City	38	Francis Lee	1.32	28,053
QPR	33	Peter Ellis	1.34	18,919
Bolton Wanderers	29	Gordon Hargreaves	1.18	20,500

The TV payments system under the current contract involves a base payment (£878,725 this past season) for all Premier League teams, topped up by extra payments each time a team appears on television. A payment of £77,255 is made to a team each time it features on Sky Television. An appearance on Match of the Day is worth £7,725. At the end of the season, each team is given a payment based on its standing in the league. The last place team is given £49,165 and the top finisher earns £49,165 multiplied by 20 (the number of teams in the league). All others are given an equivalent multiple based on their rank.

Premiership highlights to supplement the sporting events they have managed to retain for terrestrial television viewers (snooker, horse racing, some tennis and golf, the FA Cup and, of course, the Olympics). Neither has the money to bid for the live, exclusive rights to top football, which can only really work on pay-TV. But highlights alone could fetch as much as £20m a year, league insiders suggest.

So successful has the Premier League contract been for Sky that virtually every commercial broadcaster in the United Kingdom has looked at the idea of bidding for the next exclusive deal. Granada's chief executive, Charles Allen, decided in the end "it was far too risky". Certainly the ITV companies will want to bid for some of the high-

lights, but any other approach struck us as being ill-advised". Yorkshire-Tyne Tees also looked at the prospects of a bid, but found the figures being bandied about a bit too rich for its blood. "Everybody is getting too greedy," Ward Thomas, the company's chairman, said.

The list of senior broadcasters lining up for a shot at winning all or part of the Premiership contract is still very long: Rupert Murdoch, his lieutenant Sam Chisholm, Michael Green of Carlton Communications, Kelvin MacKenzie, managing director of Mirror Television, and, of course, both the BBC and ITV.

There are at least two serious contenders for the exclusive live rights: Murdoch's BSkyB and a consortium made up of Mirror Group and Carlton.

Murdoch's chief negotiator, Sam Chisholm, has earned a reputation for hard-nosed tactics, bullying and tenacity. Mike Southgate, head of sports at ITV Network Centre, said: "I'm

The two freely rubbish the other in private: and Chisholm's nickname for MacKenzie cannot be repeated in a family newspaper.

On the sidelines, Lord Hol-

it would supply general-interest programming to the new cable channel that Carlton and Mirror Group are planning to create if they win the contract.

Barring the emergence of a surprise bidder, two serious offers will be presented to the 20 Premiership chairmen in Coventry on 6 June. Neither group will discuss details of their bids, for obvious competitive reasons. But the *Independent* has learned that both BSkyB and Mirror/Carlton are

offering an innovative revenue-sharing scheme, giving the Premier League a share in future revenues from broadcasts rather than a set figure, divided among the clubs.

That fits with the League's stated goal of retaining far more control over its rights this time around. "We managed

in the last contract to break the duopoly [of the BBC and ITV]

and change the nature of the income we were receiving," says

League insider. "This time, we expect to generate even more."

Mirror/Carlton face an uphill struggle. The consortium intends to create a new channel, and offer the Premiership matches on cable. They are open to a subsidiary deal with BSkyB, whereby the country's 3 million satellite viewers will also be able to subscribe. But there are huge risks in any attempt to create a subscriber base from scratch. Cable is still in its infancy in the UK, with only 1.3 million homes connected. Moreover, digital cable – offering perhaps 150 channels – is even further off, and so the available capacity on the cable network is severely restricted

and pay-per-view not yet technically feasible.

Doubts about the timing of digital television could play into Mirror/Carlton's hands, however, as the clubs themselves are uncomfortable discussing pay-per-view rights.

An adviser to the clubs said: "Sky is not moving into pay-per-view for at least a couple of years, and it is dragging its feet over digital."

As a result, Mirror/Carlton may even be preparing to offer a radical one-year deal at four times the current level, in return for renewal rights later, when the digital revolution is truly upon us. A senior City banker advising the consortium told the *Independent*: "The chairman doesn't know what is coming. They think [the Coventry meeting] is just a standard normal meeting, but they are wrong. The existing contract could be torn up and redrafted for the 1996-97 season for four times the existing amount."

BSkyB, too, concedes that a new contract may not contain detailed proposals on pay-per-view. "The new technology won't be around for another two or three years," says Vic Wakeling, BSkyB's head of sport. "We are discussing all of this [with the League] but things are not going to change for a while."

More likely is an offer to extend the current contract, at a higher price, with a "framework" within which to discuss pay-per-view at a later date.

Virtually everyone in sport agrees that BSkyB has the edge. A senior ITV broadcaster said: "There will be more than one bidder but Sky will win it. They are bloody smooth operators."

They also have a controversial matching right in the current contract, allowing them to clinch renewal by equalising the best offer on the table. Still, the Premier League insists that a renewal with Sky is not foregone conclusion. The clubs have taken legal advice on the matching clause, and are convinced it could not stand up to legal scrutiny.

There is another reason BSkyB could have trouble securing the contract. Its existing agreement is already the subject of an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading, which could refer the matter to competition authorities. An adviser to one leading club said: "The OFT inquiry has trimmed Sky's ambitions and made them move more cautiously."

But BSkyB has a further advantage that Mirror/Carlton will find difficult to beat. It has a four-year track record broadcasting Premiership matches, and has introduced a range of innovations. "You've seen that they have set the standard that others have had to follow," said one Premier League chairman.

Clubs aiming to call more of the shots in new contract talks

MATHEW HORSMAN

Without a doubt, the Premier League is in the driver's seat in the current negotiations to renew its television contract. Rick Parry, the Premier League's chief executive, is handling the talks personally, and has already told potential bidders he expects a sharp increase on the current £60m a year.

In the words of a Premier League insider: "There is an

endless range of options, and we haven't ruled anything in or out. It is no secret that we are open to the options, especially those that give the League a more enhanced role in the kinds of broadcasts viewers will see."

Translation? This time, the

League wants to keep its rights intact – to dictate terms rather than allow the broadcasters to set conditions.

But Parry cannot act alone. The former accountant and

long-time football consultant has one of sport's toughest jobs: dealing with 20 over-sized egos that run the country's top clubs. Their names are among the most recognisable in British sport and business. Alan Sugar, the self-made millionaire founder of Amstrad and chairman of Spurs or Ken Bates, the controversial chairman of Chelsea. They are proud, strong-willed owners and managers, and seldom agree on much.

Parry has proved expert at bringing them together on the issue of television rights. The Premier League deal with Sky, reached in 1992, was a triumph for Parry and a handful of activist chairmen, including Sugar. For the first time, with the help of Sky television, the top English clubs tapped a big share of the money that football can effortlessly generate.

The result was a massive improvement in stadium comfort,

rick's MAI is still interested, although it recently lost a potential partner, Pearson Television, which has elected to withdraw from the main battle, much to the apparent disappointment of its chief executive, the sport-mad millionaire broadcaster Greg Dyke. Pearson has revealed, however, that

huge sums paid for the world's

best players and a healthy jump

in attendance at football grounds – up 30 per cent since the first television contract was signed four years ago.

This time around, the League wants even more. But insiders insist the negotiations are about more than money. Club chairmen are concerned about the effect of saturation television on attendance at the grounds and want a contract that will give the

teams wide exposure on both terrestrial and pay-television without driving down receipts at the gate.

There is also friction be-

tween the very top teams –

Manchester United, Newcastle,

and Liverpool – and those lower down the league table. The

best teams are juggernaut brand names in their own right, able to generate interest not only in the UK but abroad. Matches involving the top six teams could

earn a fortune for the club's owners. Manchester United have even looked at the prospects of launching their own cable channel.

But Parry has managed to

keep the chairmen together on

the issue of collective rights.

The deal has to be good for

everyone, not just the top teams," says a Premier League source. "The mix of views is terribly important."

The League also wants to see

more money pumped into the game's development. The Football Trust, which funds ground improvements and finances youth training, could see its income from the pools and "spot the ball" competitions drop by 40 per cent this year to £20m because of the National Lottery.

Alan Sugar and Newcastle United's Sir John Hall have both suggested redirecting television money – perhaps up to 25 per cent of the total – to the trust.

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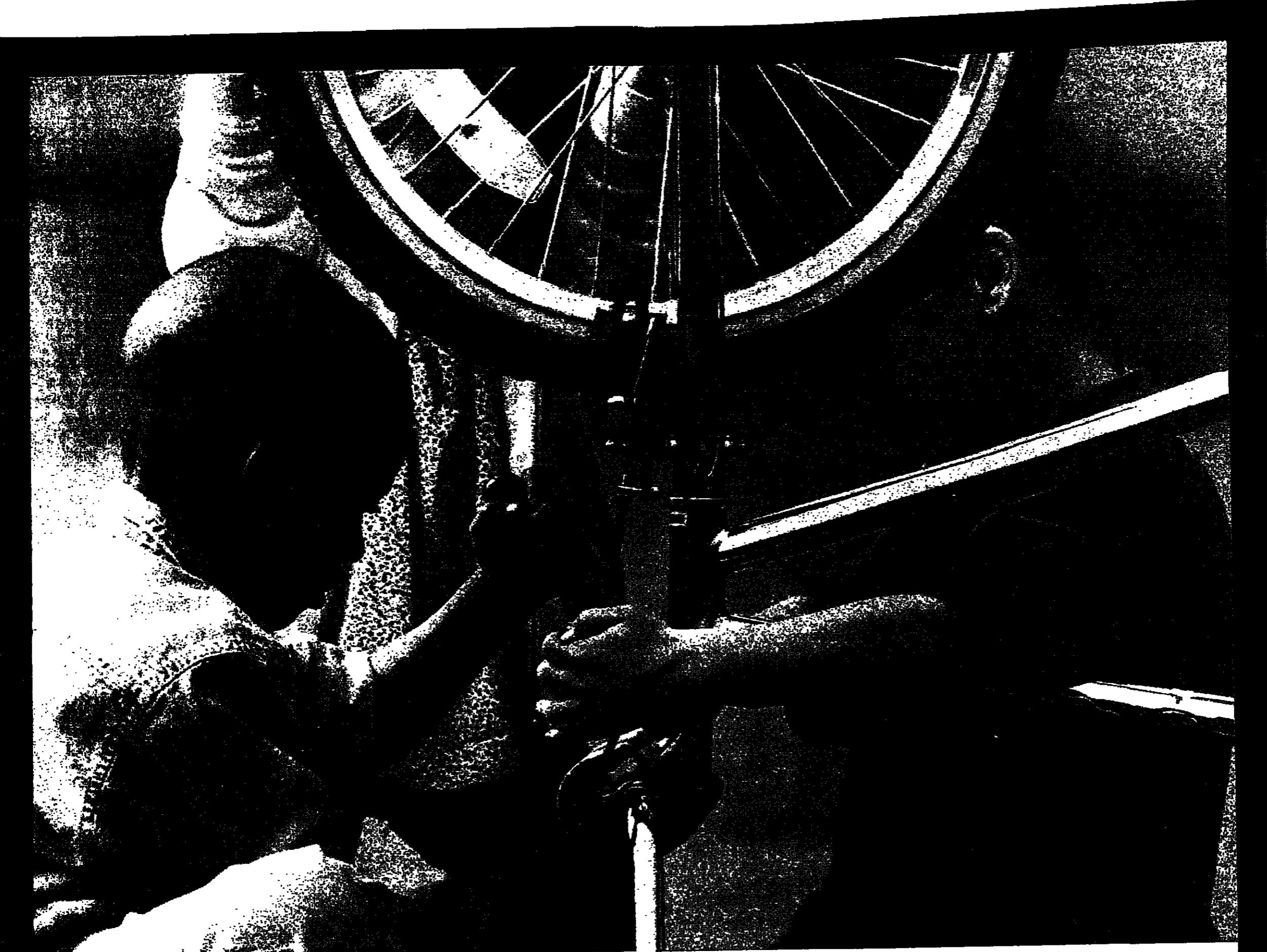
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Jahid Ishtiaq

Chechen deal lifts Yeltsin's poll hopes

Rebels capitalise on proximity of election to negotiate truce

PHIL REEVES
and HELEN WOMACK
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin last night pulled off one of the most audacious and unlikely triumphs of his presidency after bringing the leader of the Chechen rebels to the Kremlin and signing a ceasefire agreement within hours of his arrival.

It means his chances of staying in the Kremlin have been given a crucial boost three weeks before the election, courtesy of the same Chechen leadership that he long vowed to wipe out, branding them bandits and murderers. The irony was overshadowed by the fact that Mr Yeltsin appears to have made concrete progress since last summer's failed peace efforts to end the 17-month conflict.

The deal, which happened so fast it seems certain to have been planned, came two hours after Mr Yeltsin sat down in the Kremlin with Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, successor to Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was assassinated last month. It comes into force on Saturday.

The meeting followed a decision by Chechen commanders to allow Mr Yandarbiyev to go to Moscow, even though it is headquarters of the same president the Chechens blame for destroying Grozny and killing many thousands of their soldiers and citizens.

Dressed in battle fatigues but armed only with promises of safe passage, the 44-year-old literary scholar and Chechen "president" flew to Moscow yesterday morning after being escorted to the airport by scores of rebel fighters. Police kept journalists at bay as he and his

four-man delegation, with five bodyguards, landed at Moscow's airport for VIPs, Vnukovo-2, and drove to the Kremlin, where they were welcomed by Mr Yeltsin. In a bizarre twist, the delegates handed in their guns and were placed under the protection of the presidential guard, headed by Mr Yeltsin's confidant, General Alexander Korzhakov, earlier a strong advocate of the use of force against Chechnya.

Last night Russian and Chechen officials were working on details of the accord, which is expected to continue throughout today. Although there is still a risk the talks will founder, they are the biggest breakthrough in the conflict since last summer's failed peace efforts to end the 17-month conflict.

Although Mr Yeltsin is beaten in much of Chechnya, the separatists' decision to talk with him now makes it clear they would rather see him in power than the Communists, who deported the Chechen nation to Central Asia in 1944. It means the Communist presidential candidate, Gennady Zyuganov, who claims to be moderate, is being held to account for the atrocities of Stalin.

A deal was possible because neither side had anything to lose but much to gain. As an insurance against an immediate breakdown, both agreed beforehand to keep the question of Chechnya's independence off the table for the time being, concentrating on accords struck during the talks last summer.

Chechen leaders know they can fight a guerrilla war indefinitely but that it will be difficult to win outright. With an election looming, chances of squeezing a favourable deal



Peace drive: The delegation of Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, the Chechen 'president', arriving yesterday at the Kremlin, where a deal was done in two hours. The question of independence has been left till later

Photograph: AP

out of the Kremlin are at their best. And if the talks come to nothing, they will still have been able to use the break in hostilities to rearm and reoccupy Russian-held areas.

As the decree was signed by his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr Yeltsin described it as historic, saying "we have resolved the key prob-

lem of peace in Chechnya". Asked how he could be sure it would stick, he replied: "We are unanimous." At that, Mr Yandarbiyev joked that his side was "even more unanimous".

Whether the same can be said of some Russian generals is in doubt. Hard-line elements have long been suspected of continuing hostilities in Chech-

nia for economic reasons or because they are determined to see the Chechens crushed.

When the talks, brokered by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, were announced last week, the Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, was furious the war was being wound down before the Chechens' final defeat.

Yesterday he moderated his position slightly, saying that the army supported the President's initiative.

But his words were ambiguous: "One can hardly convey one's stand better than it was done by the President: bandit-killers and professional mercenaries from abroad must be rendered harmless."

"They finally figured out that to cede California means Clinton can target other states'

competitive," said California analyst Sherry Jeffe.

"It will cost them a little money, but to give California to Clinton was pretty much tantamount to allowing him the electoral coalition he needs to win."

In California, with a hefty 54 electoral college votes, President Clinton leads in the most recent polls by as much as 20 points.

He has assiduously cultivated its voters since his election, making a record number of trips to the state. Even in Orange County, famous as a conservative bastion, he is doing well. Mr Clinton has visited the McDonnell Douglas plant to announce a new contract for the

company's giant C-17 military cargo jets, and made soothing noises over the high price of petrol for California's car-loving communities. Women's issues, particularly abortion, are also regarded as a key.

Mrs Dole, a former Secretary of Transportation and president of the Red Cross, has been elevated by the Dole campaign as the model of a working woman. But her conservative stand on abortion — she is described as a born-again Christian — could tell against her.

Mr Dole is scheduled to appear in Los Angeles, San Diego, and the state capital, Sacramento. Republican advertisements are set to attack Mr Clinton's integrity and raise the sexual harassment suit brought against him.

At a cost of nearly half a million dollars a week, paid for by the national party, it seems that they will seek to "define" Mr Clinton rather than Mr Dole.

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Border town faces fresh threat to imperial lifeline

ELIZABETH NASH
La Linea de la Concepcion

In the Spanish town of La Linea, north of Gibraltar, they hate the border that separates the two communities. Spaniards in the lee of the Rock — 1,500 of whom walk through hefty police controls every day to work in the British colony — want a little more human contact.

"La Linea and Gibraltar are linked by blood and geography," said the town's mayor, Jose Antonio Fernandez Pons. "For us the sovereignty issue is quite distinct from domestic day-to-day policy. We want some mutual understanding: the prosperity of the whole area depends on it."

Madrid, which claims the British colony as its own, has imposed stiff border controls against Gibraltar's smuggling and alleged money laundering. Fr Chamizo says, "There's a lot more hashish around. The traders are cluding the controls."

Unemployment in the Campo de Gibraltar, the area around the Rock, is 40 per cent, the highest in Spain, Fr Chamizo says. "We've got two frontiers here. One with Gibraltar, the other with Morocco, which is only a few miles away. Some effects are positive, like our tolerance of different races and cultures, and our improvisational talent. But others are negative, especially the spirit of *trapicheo* [shady dealing]."

La Linea owes its existence to the British colony. For centuries the people of the city serviced the imperial rulers of the Rock, rather as medieval traders and artisans gathered at the gate of the rich man's castle. When Franco closed the border in 1967, he cut the city's lifeline.

Tens of thousands of inhabitants dispersed throughout Spain. The 65,000 who



La Linea and Gibraltar are linked by blood and geography. La Linea and the Rock of Gibraltar during the mid-1980s, when Franco caused depopulation when he closed the border. The town has since staged a partial recovery but unemployment remains Spain's highest and may rise further thanks to Madrid's tougher new customs restrictions

remained in this scrubby, unprepossessing border town, scratching a living by subsistence farming, shady dealing or contraband. Smuggling was the underside of what they had been doing for centuries supplying the British garrison. The infrastructure was there. Poverty and unemployment did the rest.

The local Guardia Civil picked up nine tonnes of hashish smuggled from Morocco in the last four months. "This is one of the areas of Spain where there is the most contraband, because Morocco is just across the water," said Lieutenant Sebastian, captain of La Linea's Civil Guard.

Tobacco smuggling has declined since last year, he says, with the elimination of most of the Gibraltar-based smugglers' launches. But women known as *matueras* still stuff cartons of cigarettes into their blouses and smuggle them across the border or fling them over the perimeter fence. Hashish trafficking, however,

first direct



international 11

Indian regime set to lose vote of confidence

Collapse of newly elected right-wing Hindu party bodes ill for stability, writes Tim McGirk

New Delhi — India's new Hindu nationalist government looks set to fall today, less than a fortnight after taking power. The opposition parties are pushing through a no-confidence motion in parliament which the minority government of Atal Behari Vajpeyi is unlikely to survive.

The collapse of the right-wing Hindu party's leadership will probably usher in a series of short-lived and quarrelsome coalition governments. After next elections, no party is close to a majority in the 543-seat Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament.

From the moment Mr Vajpeyi, 69, was sworn in on 16 May as leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the largest group in parliament, he has been scrambling to muster support for his minority government but without success. Fearing possible defections, the opposition left-wing parties corralled their MPs inside a state guest house in New Delhi, keeping them well fed and far away from the BJP's coorings.

In today's vote, the Hindu nationalist party and its allies may fall by 60 or 70 seats to grasp the needed majority. It will be challenged by the United Front (UF), a hastily assembled coalition of 13 parties which must rely on outside backing from the Congress party, led by the outgoing Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao.

The next contender for prime minister is Dev Gowda, leader of the UF and master of humility. "I will not describe myself as an economic reformer, I am just a peasant. I know what good for the poor people," he said recently. Mr Gowda's first task of choosing a cabinet — one that will keep all 13 parties and Congress happy — will be the test of whether Mr Gowda is the dry country bumpkin he pretends to be.

With the future so uncertain,



Brief rule: Atal Behari Vajpeyi, the prime minister, arriving at parliament yesterday where he is canvassing support

India would never become a theocratic state. Even if such a demand were made, we would oppose it tooth and nail'

all party leaders sought help at the weekend from the divine. Mr Vajpeyi visited the Sikh's holy shrine, the Golden Temple, and the Hindu Durgiana Mandir, both in Amritsar, Punjab, while Mr Gowda ventured south to pray to Hindu gods. Mr Rao had offerings performed in his residence by pundits, though his favourite guru, Chandraswamy, is in jail facing criminal charges.

In parliament yesterday, Mr Vajpeyi played down his party's reputation for religious chauvinism. "India would never

become a theocratic state... Even if such a demand were made in the future, we will oppose it tooth and nail," he told the Lok Sabha while his opponents cheered.

Trying to shed its image as a party which appeals only to the upper-caste Hindus, Mr Vajpeyi had appointed a Muslim, a tribal and an untouchable Hindu to his stillborn cabinet. But the Congress speaker, Sharad Pawar, dismissed this as mere illusion and jeered at the BJP for selecting "an ornamental Muslim".

Mr Vajpeyi accused the other parties of "ganging up" on the BJP. What the premier says is true: the UF is united only in keeping the Hindu nationalists out of power. Now that they are succeeding in ousting the BJP, Mr Gowda's unruly team of left-wingers, lower-caste parties and regional强人 may start feuding once they have moved into their plush government bungalows, and start riding around New Delhi in their bullet-proof Ambassador cars.

A self-confessed yokel like Mr Gowda may be easily mastered by the Congress party leader, Mr Rao, a consummate intriguer. The Congress said it would endorse a UF government as long as it followed "pro-poor" policies, but Mr Rao's support may have many hidden strings.

Mr Vajpeyi has not accomplished much for India during his brief term in power, but the Hindu nationalists are pursuing longer-term goals. The BJP strategists are confident that the leftist coalition will inevitably shatter and Congress will withdraw its backing for Mr Gowda. Then India will face another round of punishing mid-term polls. Mr Vajpeyi is hoping that the tameness shown by the BJP during its brief tenure will convince the voters that only the Hindu nationalists can restore stability to Mother India.



Voice of defiance: Aung San Suu Kyi speaking to reporters yesterday about her fears for more than 250 activists from her National League for Democracy who were arrested last week. She predicted some could be jailed indefinitely by the junta. Photograph: Reuter

Words of hope reverberate across Burma

ROBERT HORN
Associated Press

Rangoon — As long as the generals who rule Burma by fear control the media, Burmese will never read a speech by the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, in the newspapers.

Yet the day after Ms Suu Kyi delivered an address vowing to increase opposition to the military government in response to the arrests of hundreds of her supporters, most of Rangoon's 4 million people knew exactly what she had said. And they loved every word of it.

"It was a fantastic speech. She was more defiant than usual," Thien Nyunt, a mechanic, said yesterday. "I was too afraid to go. But my father went and taped it, and I think it was great."

The people of Burma appreciate the defiance of the Oxford-educated Ms Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her non-violent promotion of democracy. But they are afraid to show too much open support, remembering that the military dictatorship gunned down hundreds of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1988.

Though up to 10,000 people gathered outside her home on Sunday for her usual weekend speech — the greatest show of public support since her release last July from six years of house arrest — millions more stayed at home. Fear runs so deep in Rangoon that the army has not even called out extra soldiers, despite the political tension. As monsoon rains swept the palm-lined roads yesterday, the city went about its business as usual.

But some of the few Burmese ready to risk speaking to foreigners commented in the cloak shop houses and crowded tea-rooms that the only topic of conversation was Sunday's speech. Like Thein Nyunt, they had heard it on tape.

Ms Suu Kyi and fellow leaders of her National League for Democracy fired stinging rebukes against the authorities for arresting nearly all the delegates to the party's most important conference in six years. They demanded that the opposition victory in parliamentary elections in May 1990 finally be recognised.

"Giving into bullying is not good," Ms Suu Kyi said. "We must have the courage to face the bully's challenge."

Scores of people, some holding as many as half a dozen cassette-recorders, taped her words. The tapes made it around the city before morning, and others will penetrate the countryside in a few days. They also reach the desks of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc).

As the authorities replay the words, they will not like what they hear — through the poor sound quality come applause and cheers.

The state-controlled press yesterday called Ms Suu Kyi a "maggot" and tool of a United States conspiracy to colonise Burma by introducing democracy and human rights. The people, the press says, love and support the junta.

But what do the people say? "They are bullies," said a young woman in a print shop, echoing Ms Suu Kyi's speech. She refused to give her name, fearing arrest.

"MI are always listening," said a tour guide, referring to Military Intelligence. "You must always be careful what you say, because you never know who they are."

Ms Suu Kyi said this weekend she feels the Burmese may be too paranoid — but they had good reason "because of the sheer number of Military Intelligence people running around".

The climate of fear is represented in Burma's currency black market. The official exchange rate for the kyat is six for \$1. On the black market, the kyat was recently trading at 139 per dollar. Rumours that the military had blocked off streets to Ms Suu Kyi's home caused the kyat to plummet.

"Business is bad. I lost 100,000 kyats this weekend," said an Indian-Burmese woman who changes money in the back of her grocery shop. Though the black market is no secret, it remains illegal.

"People liked the speech, but they don't expect any change," said the currency trader. "Nobody can make this government do anything they don't want to do. They have all the guns."

Support grows for Israeli right

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

In the final days of the Israeli election campaign, polls show Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu, the right-wing candidate, closing in on Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister. A poll yesterday showed Mr Netanyahu only 2.4 per cent behind Mr Peres, well within the pollster's margin of error.

This poll was taken before the campaign's only television debate between the candidates on Sunday night in which Mr Netanyahu appeared more forceful and lucid than Mr Peres. Again and again he repeated that the peace process of which Mr Peres is the architect has left Israel frightened to take a bus for fear of being blown up.

Mr Netanyahu has also received support from ultra-orthodox rabbis whose followers vote as a block. Mr Peres never expected to get a majority of the Israeli Jewish vote, but hopes that a full turn out of Israeli-Arabs will put him over the top.

A poll after the debate showed that 45 per cent of viewers thought Mr Netanyahu won while 41 per cent thought Mr Peres was more convincing. The fact that Labour agreed to a debate at all caused some surprise since their campaign strategy has been to portray Mr Peres, 72, as the experienced statesman compared to the callow Mr Netanyahu, 46. Instead, Mr Peres looked tired and unable to answer Mr Netanyahu's questions about security.

Two polls show the Prime Minister's slim lead of 4 per cent eroding over the weekend. A poll in the newspaper *Yediot Ahronot* conducted just before the debate showed Mr Peres had 49.5 per cent and Mr Netanyahu 47.1 per cent, down from 51 per cent for Mr Peres and 45 per cent for the Likud leader before.

Those not expressing a preference fell from 4 per cent to 3.4 per cent. Tomorrow's election, in which 4 million Israelis will vote, has been fought in the shadow of suicide bomb attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad in February and March which killed 63 people. Hamas leaders were yesterday reported to be debating a new strategy of halting attacks on Israel. A Hamas official in Gaza said

there were differences between local leaders of the Muslim movement and hard-line exiled leaders, which have intensified. "We must have the decision-making power concerning our affairs. We know better how to run our business than exiled leaders who are isolated from events here," he said.

Meanwhile an Israeli-Arab advised to Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, said yesterday that he thought Mr Netanyahu would win the election. Ahmed Tibi said Israel's bombardment of Lebanon last month, in which more than 200 civilians were killed, cost Mr Peres crucial support among Israeli-Arabs, who make up 12 per cent of the electorate.

Cover Story, Section Two

Tiananmen date delays freedom for jailed official

TERESA POOLE
Peking

Question: When is a released prisoner not really released because the date is inconvenient? Answer: when a former senior Chinese government official's seven-year term for "counter-revolutionary incitement" is due to end days before the sensitive anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre of 4 June 1989.

Yesterday Bao Tong, 63, former secretary to the Politburo Standing Committee, completed his sentence and was taken by police to a well-guarded bungalow outside Peking. He was the only senior official jailed over the pro-democracy protests; his family said he would not be allowed home until after the anniversary.

Mr Bao was privy to decision-making at the highest levels of the party and a potential source of information that could damage some of China's present leaders.

He has been denied his "political rights" for a further two years, which forbids him from talking to foreign journalists.

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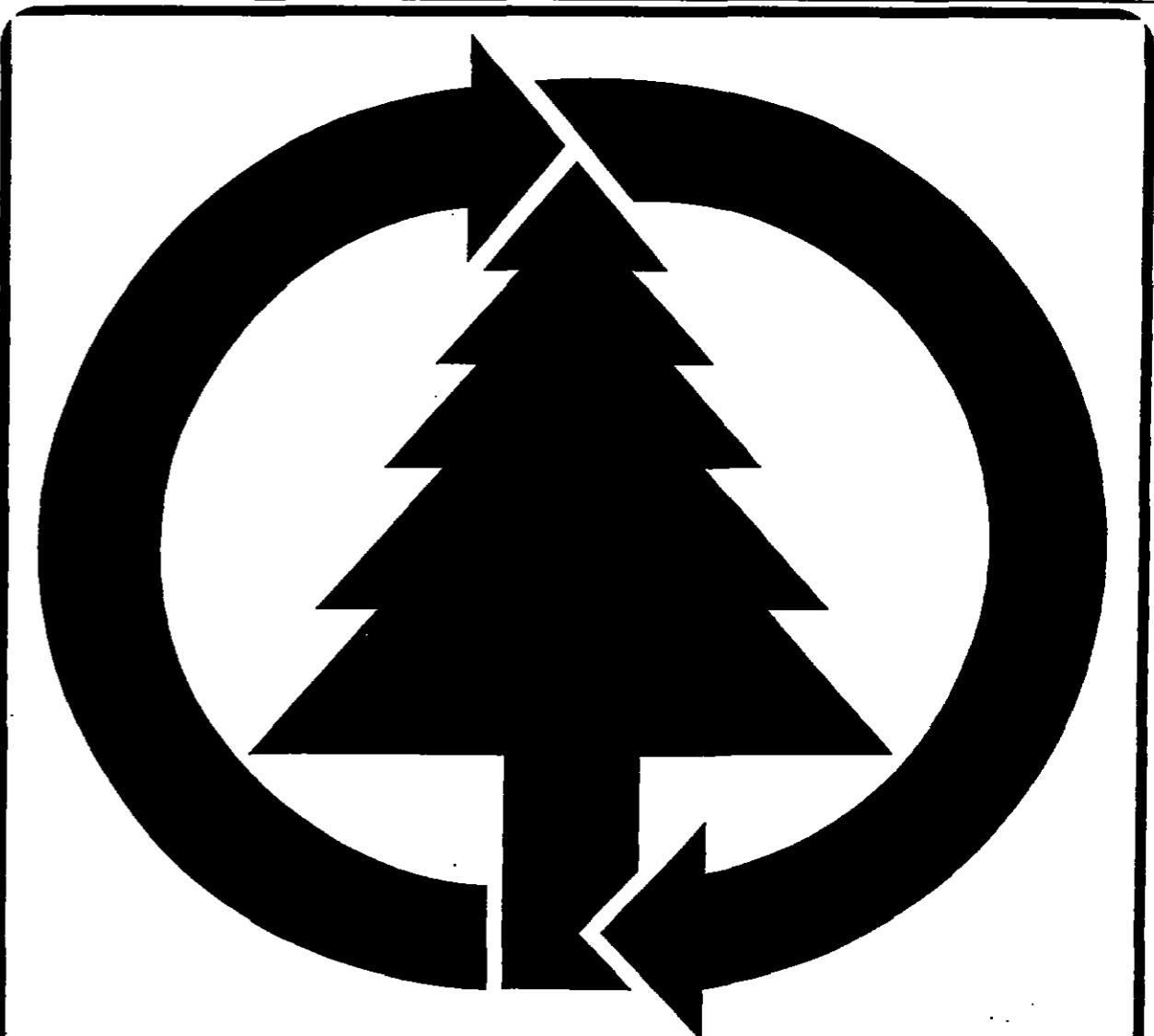
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obituaries/gazette

Virgil Ross

Bugs Bunny, the "Wascally Wabbit" who always eluded the half-pint huntsman Elmer Fudd, Tweety Pie, the canary bird who "taut he taw a puddy tat" named Sylvester ("Sufferin' Succotash"), and Speedy Gonzales, the fastest mouse in Mexico, are but three of the world's top animated cartoon stars who today must surely be shedding a tear over the loss of an animator who, whilst not their creative parent, surely brought them to life. Virgil Ross, the brilliant film cartoonist who spent over 30 years in "Termite Terrace", as the animation studio on the Warner Brothers lot was affectionately called by its inmates, has died at the age of 88.

Ross was born in 1908 and first linked his talent to draw with a love for the movies by becoming a title designer in the waning years of the silent cinema. Always an enthusiast for the animated cartoon shorts which backed up so many double-bills of the day, he seized his opportunity when he heard that Carl Lammie, the genius behind Universal Pictures, was setting up his own cartoon studio under the talented young director, Walter Lantz. Lammie took the character of Oswald the Lucky Rabbit away from the entrepreneur Charles Mintz, who in turn had appropriated it from Walt Disney, because he thought it would be cheaper to produce his own short films instead of having to pay additional profits to independent producers.



Oswald the Lucky Rabbit: Ross learnt his trade working with Walt Disney's old character

This shrewd if somewhat sharp-witted man went on to become the first major Hollywood studio to own its own cartoon unit, staffed by salaried employees, and Lantz was perfectly happy to turn out 26 monochrome one-reelers a year, even if it did mean taking in on equal terms a partner to share the load. This was the veteran animator Bill Nolan, and under this talented team of two the two

Virgil Ross learnt his trade.

The year was 1929, and Lantz's first job was to add soundtracks to the Oswald Rabbits and Pooh cartoons in stock, which gave his group time to work out how to make talkie cartoons from scratch. Titles like *Silky Sausages* (1929), *Tramp Tramps* (1930) and *Trolley Troubles* (1931) rolled off the animation assembly line, with now and then an unusual science-fiction item such as *Mars* (1930) and *The Mechanical Man* (1932). A new character was created to take the pressure off Oswald the Rabbit, and Pooh the Pup made his debut in *The Athlete* (1932), and later in an impressive parody of the Edgar Wallace horror film *King Kong*, *Called King Kong* (1933), this was the first ever cartoon to be designated "Horror" by the nervous British Board of Film Censors.

In 1935 Fred (shortly to be rechristened Tex) Avery moved from the Lantz studio to the newish set-up at Warner Brothers, where *Merry Melodies* and *Looney Tunes* were being made with rather more care and certainly more jokes than those at Universal. Avery took his

favourite animator Virgil Ross with him. Ross would remain at Warners for the rest of his animating life – although Avery himself would make one more major career move.

Porky Pig, the stuttering swine who had made his debut in the Merrie Melody *I Haven't Got a Hat* (1935), reciting "The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere" to Miss Cud the Cow, starred in the first production of the Avery-Ross partnership. It was called *Plane Dippy* (1936) and showed the fat porker joining the Air Corps and getting tangled up with a mad monkey's robot airplane. The first new character to come from the couple was a totally whacky black duck. Nameless, he was killed as "That crazy darn fool duck", but soon was dubbed Daffy. The film was *Daffy's Duck Hunt* (1937). The quacker returned the following year as titular star of *Daffy Duck and Egghead* (1938), the first Merrie Melody to be filmed in Technicolor.

For some years Ross was credited on seldom more than two films a year, which suggests that Warners allowed more production time per film than they would a decade later. In 1941 Ross is credited with nine cartoons, while both 1951 and 1953 clock up totals of 10. Bugs Bunny, who adopted his name from his designer, Ben "Bugs" Hardaway, made his fourth film appearance in Avery's remarkable *A Wild Hare* (1940), becoming a fully fledged star complete with catchphrase, "What's up Doc?" Elmer Fudd, too, was here fully established as the lisping "Weebie hunter", as voiced by the radio comedian Arthur Q. Bryan. For Ross it was his first Academy Award nomination: several more would follow.

In 1942 Tex Avery moved over to MGM to head his own unit. Ross stayed on with Warner Brothers and found himself seconded to the well-established and truly wonderful director, Isidore ("Fritz") Freling. Sylvester Pussycat the raspberry-blowing feline was first animated by Ross in *Life With Feathers* (1945), although the feathers in question belonged to a little lovebird. Tweety Pie the canary came along later, co-starring with Sylvester in a film called after his own catchphrase, *I Taw a Puddy Tat* (1948). Freling also created the perfect opposition to Bugs Bunny, the sawn-off but hairy cowboy Yosemite Sam, and Ross animated them in *Mutiny on the Bunny* (1950) and many more. Other regular stars were the Goofy Gophers, first seen in *Pasta For Guests* (1955).

After several nominations, an Oscar finally came Ross's way for *Birds Anonymous* (1957), starring Tweety and Sylvester, followed by another for the world's favourite rabbit in *Knight Knight Bugs* (1958).

The last film Ross worked on at Warners was the *The Spy Swatter* (1967), in which one other great animation star, Speedy Gonzales, "the fastest mouse in Mexico", ate secret cheese that gave him the strength of 10 cats.

He put paid to Sylvester with the immortal motto of all movie heroes, "Us good guys always win!" This was made under a new and more economical production team, and, after having worked on some 230 cartoons, Ross felt the time had come for him to retire; so he did.

However, in 1979 he worked once again when his first boss, Walter Lantz, was awarded an Oscar for Special Achievement. He operated the Academy lightboard so that a giant-sized Woody Woodpecker ran on to the stage to shake his old creator by the hand.

Denis Gifford

Virgil Ross, film animator: born 1908; married (one daughter); died Los Angeles 15 May 1996.

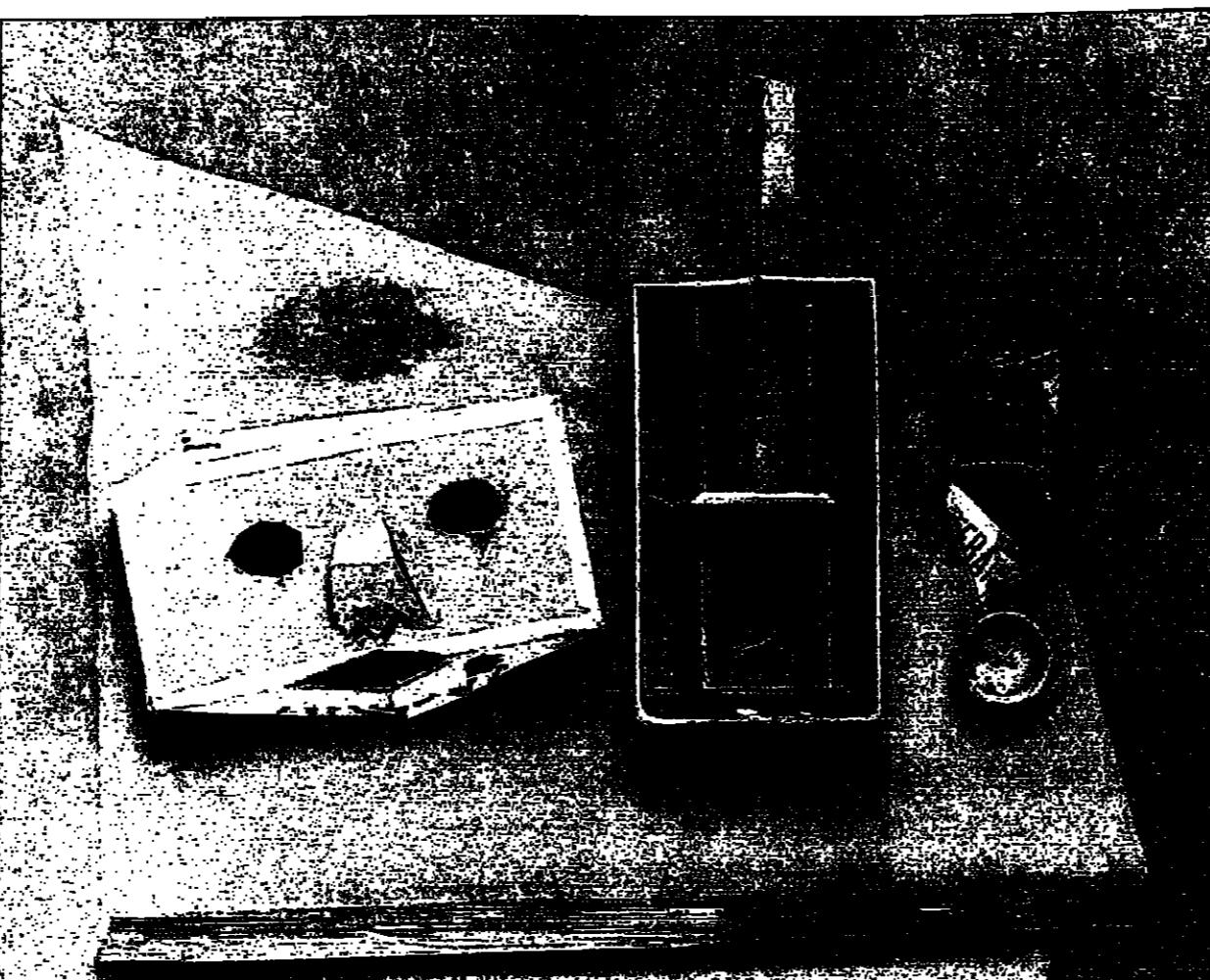
Deaths

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BULLEY: Michael Anthony Blackham, at home on 15 May. Beloved uncle, cousin and godfather, best of friends. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Hills Road, Cambridge, 2pm on 31 May. Flowers to the Brian and Patricia Scott Memorial Court, Hartington Grove, Cambridge. Telephone 01223 340258.

CARRUTHERS: Ian Douglas, Professor of African Development at Wye College (London University), on 24 May, after a short illness. Funeral service at Wye Church, 11am, 30 May, followed by cremation at Barmouth, 12pm. No flowers; donations to Amnesty International, 99 Newbury Avenue, London EC1R 4RE.

HAYCRAFT: John Stacpoole, CBE, founder of International House, died suddenly at home, 24 May, aged 93. Beloved husband of British and much-loved father of Katalina, Richard and Lynne, and loving grandfather of Merlyn, Benjie, Barney, Timothy, Bella and Lulu. Will be sadly missed by family and friends, colleagues and affiliates in the world of ELT. Funeral service will take place at St Christopher's Church, Lavie Park Road, London SE2 0DZ. A service of thanksgiving will be held later.



A sense of astonishment and wonder – a physical as well as an intellectual response: Picasso's Still-life with Mask, cardboard, metal, wood, string, oil-paint and sand on canvas, 1937, one of Lloyd's wide range of acquisitions for the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra

Michael Lloyd

With Michael Lloyd's premature death at the age of 45, Australia has lost a great museum curator and the art world a good friend. Lloyd's combination of erudition, energy and enthusiasm, coupled with a natural charm, endeared him instantly to those who met him.

He read History at the University of Melbourne, where he gained the Felix Raab Prize for an outstanding essay, a First in Earlier European History, and a distinction for his thesis "Maxim Gorky and the Russian Revolution". For his MA, at Monash University, he chose as his topic "The Self-portrait in 20th-century Art". In 1978, after graduating, he worked briefly as Assistant Registrar at the National Gallery of Victoria, moving the following year to take up a similar post at the incipient Australian National Gallery, then under the direction of James Mollison.

Although his time at the National Gallery of Victoria was short, the experience he gained there was to have a vital impact in Canberra. As Assistant Registrar he had to maintain the accession register and arrange packing, transport and insurance of all works of art coming to, or being loaned from the National Gallery. When he moved to Canberra he had to create virtually from scratch the Registrar's department, and the systems of cataloguing and accessioning of acquisitions that he initiated have since become standard practice throughout all the art museums in Australia.

In 1980 he changed roles, being appointed Assistant Curator (Research), which gave him the responsibility for drafting all directorial correspondence relating to the acquisition of international works, with the exception of prints; drafting Council submissions for the presentation of such works and having sole responsibility for the presentation of international drawings for acquisition.

These were exciting and tumultuous years at Canberra, leading up to the opening of the National Gallery in 1982, and Lloyd's energy and vision were given full rein. Apart from his largely academic work, he had to deal with every detail of preparing the burgeoning international collection for the opening display, as well as overseeing and installing the Sculpture Garden.

By the time I got to know Michael Lloyd he had become Acting Curator for International Art at the National Gallery, and his responsibilities had expanded to embrace the seeking out and presentation of European and American paintings, drawings, sculpture and decorative arts. The collections in the international galleries do not include furniture, but during the ensuing years Lloyd acquired for the gallery a wide range of objects which help chart the development of 19th- and 20th-century design, including metalwork by Christopher Dresser, a Bakelite candlestick by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and a prototype electric kettle designed and made by William Morris's friend and colleague W.A.S. Benson.

He had frequently asked me

to find him a magnificent example of William De Morgan's great, Persian-inspired pottery and, by chance, when we had

just acquired such a piece and I was arranging to have it photographed, he popped his head in at the Fine Art Society. "I am not supposed to be coming to see you," he said. "I am working on a big Surrealist exhibition, but I could not walk down Bond Street without saying hello." Diverting him for a moment from the pursuit of Dada and Surrealism, I told him about the vase and took him up to the office to see it. His response was immediate and typical: he sat down in a chair, literally weak at the knees, and said, "Gee, this is one of the most beautiful pieces I have ever seen."

Whether contemplating the great works by Matisse, Miró, Picasso and Jackson Pollock that he acquired for the gallery, or the more modest and functional creations of Benson and Mackintosh, Lloyd's spontaneous reactions were the same. Sheer infectious enthusiasm: a physical as well as an intellectual response. A rare quality in any human being, and especially rare in a world largely of astonishment and wonder.

He applied this same fastidiousness to the smallest details of life and friendship; when I was in Australia a few years ago, he selected the hotels I should stay in. In Sydney he chose for me a converted Victorian pub near the harbour, even specifying which room I was to have, selected for its tranquillity, not the view.

Lloyd wrote widely and arranged many exhibitions for the National Gallery; the two most outstanding were probably "Surrealism: revolution by night" (1993) and his latest exhibition, "J.M.W. Turner", the biggest show of its kind ever seen in Australia, which opened in Canberra in the middle of March, and has already been seen by over 200,000 people. In the essay, "Being There", which he wrote for the catalogue, he comments on Turner's "enduring astonishment and wonder at the world about him". Despite being aware of the seriousness of his illness (he died of lung cancer), Michael Lloyd never lost his own sense of astonishment and wonder.

Peyton Skipwith

Michael Thomas Lloyd, museum curator: born Melbourne, Australia 16 September 1950; Assistant Registrar 1979, National Gallery of Australia, Assistant Curator (Research) 1980-82, Acting Curator, International Art 1982-85, Curator, European and American Paintings, Sculptures, Drawings and Decorative Art 1870-1910 1985-90, Senior Curator, International Art 1990-92, Assistant Director (Development and Management of the Collections), 1992-96; married 1971 Janette Murray (two daughters); died Canberra 19 May 1996.

They were early exemplars of



Barney Wilen

Although most people have never heard of the tenor saxophonist Barney Wilen many of them will have heard him without realising it, for he had a fairly large role in the band Miles Davis led to record the soundtrack of *Ascenseur pour l'Echafaud* ("Lift to the Scaffold").

Subsequently the music became a favourite of television producers everywhere and was used to accompany films with themes as diverse as free-fall parachuting and the hand-milking of cows. Davis's mournful trumpet was unmistakable and his improvisations unforgettable. The only other horn was Wilen's and as a conse-

quence he had an important part which he took on to perfection. Although he made the most of it by the quality of his sound and ideas and it was to be his most famous recording.

What was an unknown quantity in the ranks of a band led by such a superstar? It was a typically odd event in an uneven life which hinged on the fact that his father was an American and his mother French.

Wilen was born in Nice, but, when the Second World War loomed in 1939, travelled to the United States with his family. The family returned to France at the end of the war and it was

in Paris that Wilen took up first the alto sax and later the tenor. His playing was notable for the logical flow of his improvisations and his early work showed the influence of Lester Young. His later playing reflected this interest in the work of Sonny Rollins. Wilen became a regular associate of expatriate American musicians in Paris. He made his first recording in 1954 with two of them, the drummer Roy Haynes and the guitarist Jimmy Giurato, and the following year played in the Paris clubs with the drummer Kenny Clarke, the trombonist Jay Jay Johnson and that ailing musical giant, the pianist Bud Powell.

Wilen recorded with another American pianist, John Lewis, in 1956 and again with the vibraphonist Milt Jackson. For the next two years he worked regularly in the Paris clubs with Powell. He made the soundtrack, subsequently issued as a best-selling album, with Davis in 1957 and toured France with the trumpeter.

In 1959 he joined the Jazz Messengers which Art Blakey was assembling to play the soundtrack of yet another film, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. That same year he was the first non-American to be invited to play at the Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island.

After a period away from jazz

he appeared with Indian classical players at the Berlin Jazz Festival of 1967, by which time he had abandoned the "Lester Young" inspired tinges of his playing and had become an exponent of so-called "free" jazz. His interest in this waned as the music did, and he left jazz to spend much of the Seventies making anthropological films in Africa. When he began playing again in Paris 10 years later he had returned to his earlier be-bop style.

Steve Vose

Bernard Jean (Barney) Wilen, tenor saxophonist: born Nice 4 March 1917; died Paris 25 May 1996.

He was early exemplars of

John Haycraft

John Haycraft was an inspiring teacher and *animatore* of people. With his wife, Brita, in 1953 he founded the International House World Organisation, which more than any other single private institution has shaped the evolution of the profession of English language teaching (ELT).

A pioneer, he was an early advocate of the wider context of learning outside the classroom by bringing people together in social and dramatic contexts. For him language learning and teaching were about communication, theatre, and understanding between people.

Haycraft was born in 1926. His early life was spent travelling in Europe with his mother and his brother, Colin (the publisher), following the violent death of his father whilst serving in the 58th Punjab Regiment in 1929 when he and Colin were still very young children. Olive, his mother, supported her family on a small army pension and worked as a tennis player.

This unconventional early background of travel in France and Italy was to prove a formative influence on John Haycraft. He developed an early interest in other countries, cultures and people. He was educated at Wellington, in Berkshire, where despite his distaste for rigid structures and for anyone who sought to crush individual spirit he early on showed his natural leadership qualities and became head boy.

For just under three years, Haycraft was in the Army, and spent 1947 – the last year of the Raj – in India, an echo of the career of the father he had never known. In 1948 he went up to Oxford to read History, which remained a lifelong interest and culminated in his book *In Search of the French Revolution* (1969).

With no certain plans other than a sense of wanting to write, as has happened to so many who have made a career in English language teaching Haycraft came to it almost accidentally. After a postgraduate course at Yale, he was guiding tourists around Toledo and teaching students privately. Following their marriage in 1953, Haycraft and his Swedish wife Brita set off for southern Spain – which he saw as "a dramatic environment" – and started the first International House school in Córdoba. They spent six years there, teaching and writing, a period he described in his well-received autobiography book *Babel in Spain* (1965), although the Franco regime received it by declaring him *persona non grata*.

Returning to London in 1959, working collaboratively with his wife, Haycraft developed his two big ideas: raising the standards of the teaching of English through an affiliated network of schools around the world and the practical training of teachers for the classroom.

At that time, training for English language teaching, especially of a practical kind, was virtually non-existent. The Haycrafts had the idea of setting up short, intensive teacher-training courses to prepare people to face multi-lingual classes with confidence and skill.

They were early exemplars of

the idea of being a reflective practitioner, that is by thinking about and reflecting upon their own work in the classroom they extrapolated the essence of what was effective with foreign learners of English and presented this knowledge and experience on the teacher-training course. This original course became the blueprint for the Royal Society of Arts/Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate qualification in the teaching of English as a foreign language to adults.

In a period of almost 35 years, more than 30,000 people have taken this course and have experienced it as one of the most powerful educational experiences of their life. It has been the primary influence on most of the key figures in ELT today; one could even say that Haycraft invented the modern profession of ELT teacher-trainer.

Haycraft's second big idea was that standards could most effectively be raised by sending the teachers trained in London to schools around the world which espoused his educational standards and ideals. That first school in Córdoba was the seed of more than 100 international schools in 20 countries, a truly international community that expressed John Haycraft's spirit.



The final flowering of his taste for starting new things and his inclination for moving across boundaries – often in difficult circumstances – was in his old age. After his retirement from International House in 1990, with the financier George Soros to establish school in Central and Eastern Europe, a project characteristic of Haycraft's sense of new priorities and selfless generosity, John Haycraft was not among those who retire.

While so significantly influencing the development of English language teaching, Haycraft pursued a parallel careers as a writer, which he regarded as his vocation. His books show the same interest in people, the impatience with bureaucracy and with prettiness as he expressed in his International House life.

Tow Duff

John Stacpoole Haycraft educationist and writer: born 11 December 1926; Founder and Director, International House 1964-90; Director General 1975-90; CBE 1982; Director, Soros English Language Programme 1991-94; married 1955 Brita Langensel (two sons, one daughter); died London 23 May 1996.

Haile Grossman, resistance leader

essay

Science is selling us out

The law of gravity belongs to all but our DNA codes are becoming private property. The change is profound, argues Tom Wilkie. Science is becoming a commercial, not a social enterprise

One of my heroes has just shown that he has feet of clay. Peter Goodfellow, the brilliant and youthful professor of genetics at Cambridge University, is the man who, a few years ago, discovered the gene for gender. In a fantastic piece of scientific research, he isolated and identified the short stretch of human DNA that contains the genetic "switch" telling a developing embryo that it should become a boy rather than a girl.

Together with Robin Lovell-Badge at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, Professor Goodfellow took the equivalent gene isolated from mice and rewrote the genetic instructions of a mouse embryo. The mouse, which had been conceived as a female, was born with all the impediments of a male – indeed, it was a male.

Perhaps because I am a man, I have always found that particular piece of genetics awesome. Around the world, thousands of scientists are at work deciphering the mysteries of human DNA and discovering new genes at the rate of about one a week. But, somehow, the essence of masculinity reduced to a stretch of DNA seems to me profoundly humbling; while the fact that we can know this fact about ourselves at all is profoundly inspiring – a scientific fulfilment of the Socratic injunction, "know thyself".

Professor Goodfellow is a man I admire because he has expanded and enriched my perception and understanding of myself and of the world in which I live. And I am old-fashioned enough to believe that knowledge is preferable to ignorance and that understanding is good in itself. But at the beginning of July, Professor Goodfellow leaves Cambridge to work for SmithKline Beecham, the multinational pharmaceutical company, and the fruits of his fertile brain will become the private intellectual property of a commercial company.

I was brought up in the post-war faith that science was both the disinterested pursuit of knowledge and also an extraordinarily powerful motor for innovation and the betterment of humanity. The title of an essay by the late Sir Peter Medawar, a British Nobel prizewinner – that science offered "The hope of progress" – captured perfectly the mood of the times, that change was for the better.

The idea of science as a moral rather than a commercial enterprise was codified as long ago as 1947 by the sociologist Robert K Merton. In his essay "The normative structure of science", he set out the moral and social values that had to govern scientific endeavour. It is the adherence of scientists to these norms that permits us to



The lab trap: acquiring scientific knowledge is costly, so companies want to keep it to themselves. But doing so leaves science and society impoverished

appeal to science as an "objective" body of knowledge. To this day they are known as the "Mertonian norms":

Community – scientific knowledge is public knowledge because, in part, it is performed collaboratively as a social enterprise by the scientific community;

Universality – scientific advance should be objective and impersonal. An individual scientist's race, nationality, class or personal characteristics are irrelevant to the science he or she does;

Disinterestedness – scientists should be motivated by the search for truth, not biased by the thought of personal or financial advancement;

Originality – science makes progress because researchers enjoy the academic freedom to choose for themselves their research problems and techniques;

Scepticism – scientific claims must be subjected to scrutiny

out in the open by a process of public verification.

But Medawar's hope of progress has withered and, with it, the idea that science can be pursued for its own sake. The Mertonian norms were as much prescriptive as descriptive and the old values are changing. The accountants have been let

Science was seen as a motor for the betterment of humanity

in and science must now pay its way. Neither morals nor Mertonian norms are the priority of the market.

The reason for Professor Goodfellow's move is simple: money. Not so much personal enrichment, but the basic wherewithal to continue the

science at which he is so good. In explaining his decision to go, Professor Goodfellow commented that even at Cambridge, "it has been a strain to maintain the infrastructure needed to carry out internationally competitive research, and the financial constraints have been getting worse."

Amply corroboration for his view was provided last week, when the Government published the figures for its spending on science and technology. Ten years ago, the Government spent £6.5bn on all aspects of research and development. In 1998, its *Forward Look* at government-funded science engineering and technology envisages that only £4.9bn will be spent – £1.6bn a year less. All the figures are in 1994 currency, so this is a decrease of a quarter in "real terms". Roughly £31m more was spent on research and development every week of the year by Mrs Thatcher's government of 1985 compared with what Mr Major will spend if he wins the next election.

At the press conference to publish the *Forward Look*, Ian Taylor, the minister for science, disputed the importance of absolute figures. Government expenditure is under pressure across all departments, he pointed out, so one should look at the relative position of science. It is a fair point, but unfortunately for Mr Taylor, the figures reveal that whereas civil service used to occupy about 2.4 per cent of government spending in 1986, it now gets a meagre 1.99 per cent – a drop of about one-fifth.

Many scientists are hanging

on, in the Micawberish hope that something – presumably a Labour government – will turn up. In this analysis, the past 17 years have been some sort of dreadful aberration; once the government has changed, normal conditions will be restored and public funds for science will start to flow.

But it is a misreading of history to believe that problems for the scientific enterprise in Britain began with Mrs Thatcher's government. It was, after all, Shirley Williams, secretary of state for education and science in the last Labour government, who penned a piece in the *Times* that started with the ominous phrase: "For the scientists, the party is over."

Although the cuts began with Mr Callaghan, Mrs Thatcher's government did have a philosophical problem fitting science into the marketplace. Traditionally, much of what is produced in research laboratories is public knowledge – one cannot, for example, patent the law of gravity. Science is a "public good" not only in the sense of something morally worthwhile but also in the sense of being public property.

In the face of this conflict with their ideology, Conservative governments since 1979 have vacillated. At one time, science was to navel ever closer to industry; Kenneth Baker, when he was secretary of state for education and science, commanded that scientists should get to know the delights of the business lunch.

Then the emphasis changed as the Lawson boom took off: industry, freed from the corporate shackles of the 1970s, was now profitable again and so able to pay for "near-market" research itself, whereas it was the proper role of government to fund the basic research that could not be captured as private property. In the face of a second recession, the emphasis switched back again with the publication of the 1993 White Paper *Realizing our Potential* which focused on sci-

ence for "wealth creation".

Here is where a profound change is taking place in the nature of science itself. The boundary of what is science for the public good and science as the commercial property of a private company is changing. SmithKline Beecham, for example, has a major share in a privately held database of human gene sequences composed by two American organisations: Human Genome Sciences and the Institute for Genomic Research in Maryland. To adopt a phrase from a different area of discourse these sequences are "the common heritage of mankind" and would once have been regarded as basic scientific knowledge – a public good. But

with the advent of modern information processing techniques, a company can score commercial advantage by being able to compare a DNA sequence published in the open scientific literature with those that it holds on its confidential database. Given the drought of public funds for research, SmithKline Beecham's commercial policy becomes attractive to those who want to do basic scientific research. Seen in this context, Professor Goodfellow's departure from academe is a reasonable move for a brilliant scientist.

Analysis of the main journals, carried out by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, shows that academic institutions now play a much diminished role in the production of scientific knowledge, while a growing proportion of the authors of scientific papers are employees of commercial

companies. John Ziman has also charted this change in a lecture to the Royal Society and in his book, *Of One Mind: The Collectivisation of Science*.

Given Britain's dismal record of transforming its scientific discoveries into innovative products that can be sold for profit in the marketplace, surely this trend is something to welcome, not to worry about? The short answer is that, even allowing for the recent spectacular stock market investments in start-up biotechnology companies such as British Biotech, there is precious little evidence either that established British companies are investing in research and development or that financial conditions are right to call forth a British flowering of start-up biotechnology companies.

The world's top 200 companies spent 4.7 per cent of sales revenue on research and development in 1995, whereas the top 12 UK companies (which are included in the world top 200) spent a mere 2.6 per cent of sales on research and development. As a proportion of the UK's national wealth – GDP – British industry was spending less on research and development in 1994 than it had been in 1981.

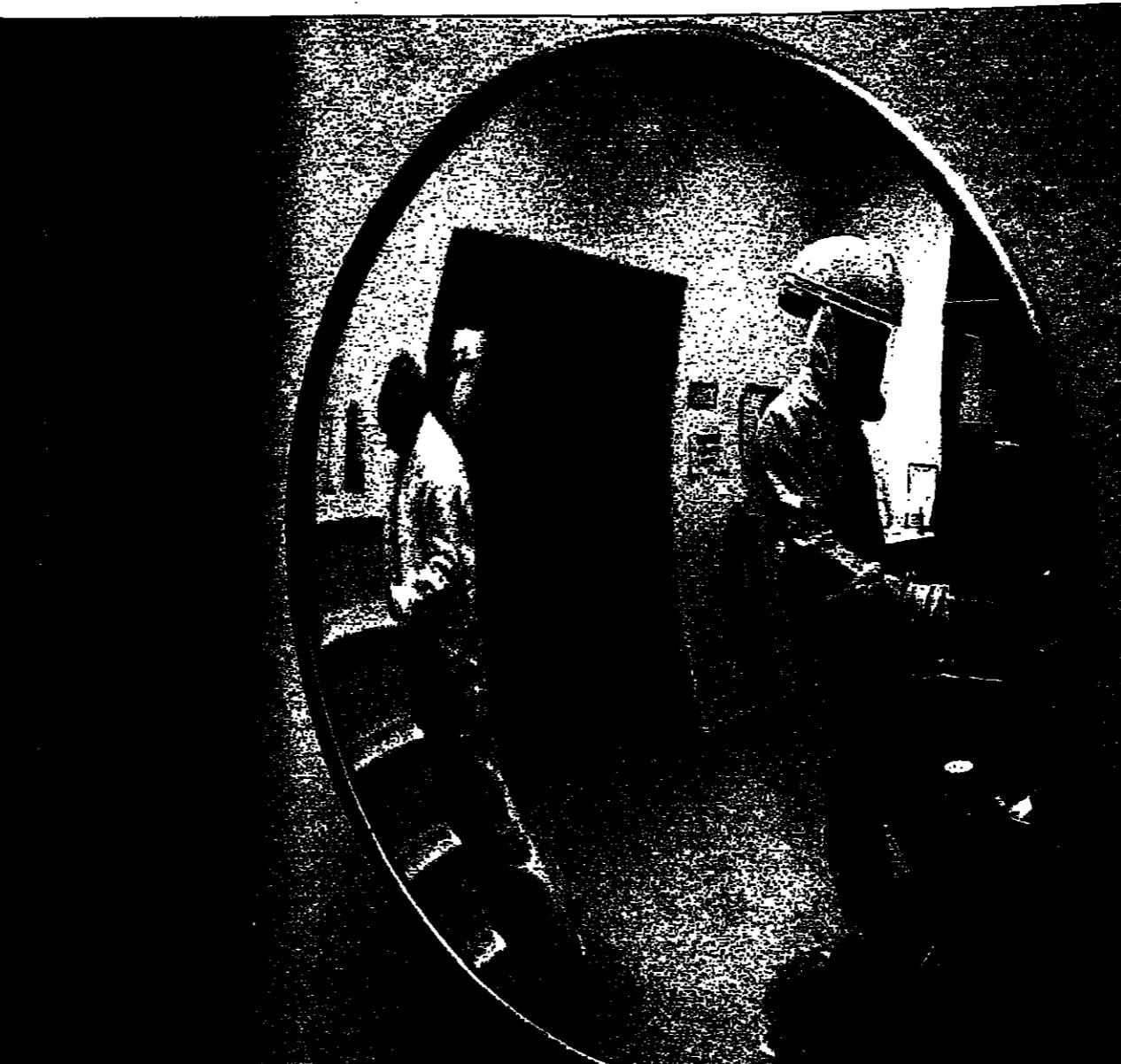
The larger problem is that we might lose the old objectivity of science for no compensating gain. In January 1995, for example, the journal *Addiction* carried an editorial discussing concerns about commercial pressures on the reporting of research results. These pressures were being exerted by, among others, the alcohol and tobacco industries anxious to downplay data that might adversely affect sales of their products.

Such concerns are particularly acute regarding research about addiction, but the journal also highlighted issues of common concern across science: fraudulent data; plagiarism; double publication of the same piece of work; and "honorary authorship", where people are placed on the list of authors even though they have made no genuine contribution to the work being reported. Further indications that the power of the old norms is diminishing are the recent appearance of several cases not of error, but of outright scientific fraud.

Commercial pressure on basic science is not confined to Britain. It is best described in, of all places, Michael Crichton's introduction to his book *Jurassic Park*: "The commercialisation of molecular biology is the most stunning ethical event in the history of science and it has happened with astonishing speed. For 400 years since Galileo, science has always proceeded as a free and open inquiry into the workings of nature." Crichton notes that when Watson and Crick discovered the double helix structure of DNA in 1953, "it was confidently expected that their discovery would be selflessly extended to the greater benefit of all mankind. Yet that did not happen." Instead, research scientists in molecular biology became entrepreneurs setting up biotechnology companies: "Suddenly it seemed as if everyone wanted to become rich."

Crichton is right to be concerned. With the loss of our adherence to the Mertonian norms, we may be in danger of shutting down the motors that have driven Western scientific inquiry, and its consequent moral and material development, since the dawn of the Enlightenment.

Whitehall



Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

It makes no sense for a firm to buy knowledge that will be made public

have appropriated quantum mechanics as its own shareholders' intellectual property. In the face of this conflict with their ideology, Conservative governments since 1979 have vacillated. At one time, science was to navel ever closer to industry; Kenneth Baker, when he was secretary of state for education and science, commanded that scientists should get to know the delights of the business lunch.

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carried out by the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University, shows that academic institutions now play a much diminished role in the production of scientific knowledge, while a growing proportion of the authors of scientific papers are employees of commercial

other means for the whole programme. The first guest, Bob Monkhouse, was not interviewed at all but given piles of newspapers and asked to make spontaneous, pre-meditated jokes about the week's news.

We were shown several mildly silly American TV commercials for dieting, hair replacement and stress relief, of which Clive James unwise made fun by putting on the products advertised (wig, mass glove, etc.).

We were shown an extract from a Hungarian TV tale, in a not very good English language version, about which Clive James said things we were supposed to think funny and we were forced to watch an embarrassing interview with an ageing *Madame Tussauds* star whom Clive James had once fancied, which we were supposed to think interesting.

But the *Clive James Show* was different. It started with the opening monologue in which Clive James says funny things about the week's news, or at least says things about the week's funny news. It then continued this monologue by

might say some bright and funny things. I hadn't reckoned with Clive James. Clive James proceeded to do something I have never seen on TV before. He interviewed Stephen Fry by asking him what he thought of the rest of the programme so far. He asked him what he thought of the American commercials. He asked him what he thought of the Hungarian TV extract. He even asked him what he thought of the interview with the forgotten *Madame Tussauds* star.

Stephen Fry is a bright and funny bloke, but faced with interview questions at this level he found it hard either to keep smiling or to conceal that he thought it was all a load of manure ...

Well, now I have seen a Carlton TV programme, and I have seen something else I never thought to see: bad television being made fun of on a show which is worse than anything being pilloried. Maybe there is something to be said for living way outside London after all.

Whitehall

The stars aren't as bright in London



Miles Kington

logue. Clive Anderson does the same, except for the funny noise, on *Clive Anderson Talks Back*, and Angus Deayton does it with captions to photos on *Have I got News for You?*

It is unforgivable but understandable, and I can see the psychological reason for it. If you give the host a chance to get the host's own spot early on, he won't interrupt so much later and hog the limelight.

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And then Stephen Fry came on. This was the reason I had switched on in the first place. Fry is a bright and funny bloke, and I thought he

Whitehall

business

THE INDEPENDENT • Tuesday 28 May 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098

Scottish poised for £1.5bn Southern deal

NIC CICUTTI

ScottishPower, the expansionist electricity and gas company, is poised to try to add water to the portfolio of utilities it owns by announcing a takeover deal worth up to £1.5bn for Southern Water.

The anticipated deal is expected to realise ScottishPower's ambition to become the first true multi-utility group in the UK once domestic electricity and gas supply is opened up to competition in 1998.

It would also end short-lived hopes by rival bidders, including Southern Electric, of being

able to snatch Southern Water from ScottishPower's clutches.

However, sources at ScottishPower admitted last night that although an announcement was expected before trading began this morning, last-minute talks were continuing through the night, that final hitches were to materialise, the deal would be put back.

Should Southern Water decide at the last moment that a better offer is on the table from Southern Electric, ScottishPower would be prepared to mount an unagreed bid – unless the asking price was too great.

A critical factor will be whether Southern Electric is

prepared to risk a rights issue of several hundred million pounds, with the rest financed out of debt, to pay for its takeover ambitions.

Sources close to Southern Water suggested yesterday that Electric need not move tomorrow but could delay a decision for some time yet.

ScottishPower, based in Glasgow, already has gas and telecommunications subsidiaries and wants to add Southern Water to Manweb, the Merseyside and North Wales electricity company acquired after a £1.1bn takeover battle last year.

Southern Water, whose

shares closed at 681p on Friday, valuing the company at about £1bn, is seen as having one of the strongest balance sheets, after buying back 10 per cent of its shares last year.

The company is thought to have triggered a last-minute bidding war in the hope of extracting improvements to the deal on the table from ScottishPower or of obtaining a better price from elsewhere.

For ScottishPower, which achieved operating profits of £477m in 1995/6, the deal could provide savings worth tens of millions of pounds through joint billing systems, metering, procurement and information

systems. However, insiders do not expect the savings to be as great as the £100m a year which Scottish hopes to achieve by 1998 from its takeover of Manweb.

Analysts have pointed out that ScottishPower's gearing, at 52 per cent, would rise in the event of a successful bid.

Scottish expects to develop a stronger brand name for itself as a utilities provider, irrespective of region. The company already owns Caledonian Gas, which supplies 6,000 commercial and industrial customers in the UK.

It is also developing a telecoms subsidiary, which is rolling

out a fibre-optic network in Central Scotland.

Southern Electric's entry into the battle for control of Southern Water follows the natural geographical overlap between the two companies, which both have franchises in the South of England. Savings could come from similar areas as with ScottishPower, including the merger of both companies' head offices. However, ministers are believed to have already been briefed that a consequent heavy loss of jobs in the South of England might be politically unpalatable in advance of a general election.

Southern Electric's

Electrics spark a retail-led recovery

NIGEL COPE

After a series of false dawns the battered UK economy is poised for three years of strong consumer spending growth. The optimistic forecast comes in a new survey of retail demand which says that recent improvements in consumer confidence will turn into a genuine economic recovery this year.

The report by Verdict, the respected retail consultancy, says the high street can look forward to the best trading climate since the late 1980s, even though it rules out a credit-driven consumer boom. A surge in spending on computers will set the pace, the new report predicts.

According to Verdict, the value of retail spending will rise by 2.5 per cent between now and the year 2000 while volumes (adjusted for inflation) will grow by 13.4 per cent. Conditions are forecast to become less buoyant in 1999 and 2000.

The upturn will be underpinned by falling unemployment and low interest rates together with windfall gains from maturing leases and building society flotation.

The election timetable should ensure the Government takes no measures that will dampen spending, the survey says.

It forecasts that the electrical sector will be boosted by strong demand for computers, which is tipped to rise by 200 per cent in value by the year 2000. Sales of televisions, videos and hi-fi equipment will be fuelled by new product developments.

DIY and furnishings will also do well as spending forges ahead. "This will lead to a sustained recovery in the housing market, always an absolute prerequisite of an upturn in Britain's consumer economy," said Verdict.

Verdict's statements follow a bullish set of economic figures last week showing the biggest quarterly increase in consumer spending since the end of 1993.

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trouble

PFI comes under fire as delays dog projects

MICHAEL HARRISON
Deputy City and Business Editor

The flagship of the Treasury's Private Finance Initiative, a £200m project to refurbish its own headquarters in Whitehall, is running almost a year behind schedule. The delay is the latest in a series of embarrassing setbacks.

The Government originally planned to announce the winner of the contract in the first quarter of this year but it is now unlikely to be awarded until some time in early 1997.

The competition to redevelop the Treasury building in Great George Street was announced with much fanfare by Chancellor Kenneth Clarke in November 1994, as part of a package to kick-start the flagging initiative.

A year later in November 1995, the Treasury shortlisted two private sector consortia. One comprised the construction group Bovis, Hambros Bank, the property company Stanhope and the property consultancy Chelsterton. The other was Whitchurch Corporation, a special purpose company set up by property developer Geoffrey Bradman in partnership with Haslemere Estates.

Builder John Laing has withdrawn from a £260m contract to

build a new hospital in east London, Britain's biggest privately-financed NHS project. The company said the deal was too complex, with the bidding process alone costing up to £500m.

Last week Bowis said it would not tender for any further PFI road projects. Even though it is only a minor player in the road building business, the decision was nevertheless seen as a blow to the initiative.

Even strong supporters of the PFI such as Taylor Woodrow, which has bid for two roads, three health projects and a light rail scheme, have criticisms of the initiative. A Taylor Woodrow spokesman said: "We are still positive about the PFI as a concept but everything is slow, the bidding costs are high and we haven't had any tangible results yet. We are still putting a spade in the ground on a PFI project."

In April the Treasury set a target of agreeing at least £140m of projects under the PFI by the end of 1998/99. In 1995/96 deals worth £4.8bn – just under the Treasury's £5bn target – were agreed although one of these, the Channel tunnel rail link, accounted for £3bn of that total.



Lacking a certain initiative: The flagship private finance project to refurbish the Treasury is a year behind schedule

Single currency 'will create jobs'

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The single European currency could help to create up to a million jobs within a decade, contrary to fears expressed by the Governor of the Bank of England, according to new research.

Stable exchange rates and lower government budget deficits under the euro would allow interest rates to fall.

This would benefit the UK more than any other member state because its economy is far more sensitive to changes in interest rates, claim economists from the independent National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Writing in *New Economy*, the journal of the left-leaning Institute for Public Policy Research, researchers Ray Barrell and Nigel Pain estimate that the UK would gain the most from monetary union.

They reject the idea that staying out and being able to run a bigger government deficit will be more expansionary. An increase in government investment, financed by borrowing, is likely to raise real interest rates and, in turn, decrease employment, eventually offsetting the increase in jobs generated by the extra spending, they claim.

The new research follows an apparent warming to the single currency by Labour Party spokesmen in the run-up to Europe's launch today of its European agenda.

Andrew Smith, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said last week that staying out of European monetary union could

involve "substantial costs to the United Kingdom ... including the effect on jobs, investment, trade and the City."

The shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown, has also spoken of the need for a constructive approach to Europe and monetary union in recent speeches in Paris and Bonn.

The research, based on a computer model of the European economies, finds two routes for reduced interest rates under monetary union. One is the cut in government borrowing required by the Maastricht Treaty. The other is the fact that under a single currency the German Bundesbank would not in effect set European interest rate levels alone.

They find that a 1 per cent cut in total government borrowing would, eventually, on a cautious estimate, bring real interest rates down by 0.3 per cent, cutting unemployment by 0.6 per cent around a million.

Concerns expressed by many that government efforts to meet the deficit target – described as being "on track" by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, as a "spirit for the finish" – risk recession and higher unemployment and, at most, a short-term respite, the authors argue. The UK will be better off if everyone tightens their policy because we benefit more from lower interest rate levels alone.

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They reject the idea that staying out and being able to run a bigger government deficit will be more expansionary. An increase in government investment, financed by borrowing, is likely to raise real interest rates and, in turn, decrease employment, eventually offsetting the increase in jobs generated by the extra spending, they claim.

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business



GAVYN DAVIES

The evidence implies that the key central banks have spent much of the past decade setting policy as if they have been following the Taylor rule'

Aims that help inflation policy land on target

It is considered dangerous nowadays to fly without an auto-pilot, whether you are an airline or a central bank. Not that the central banks ever really had a reliable auto-pilot, but they thought they did when monetary aggregates were in vogue in the 1970s and 1980s. These days the use of monetary targets has all but been abandoned as an automatic signalling mechanism for interest rate policy, but there is still a restless feeling that some form of fixed rule would be desirable to help frame monetary decisions.

In the recent past, there has been increasing interest in a rule suggested by John Taylor of Stanford University, which links interest rates in a mechanistic way to the inflation rate and the amount of spare capacity in the economy. This is a rule which we are destined to hear a lot more about. It is under intense scrutiny at the moment by both the Treasury and the Bank of England, and has been the subject of very favourable comment from Alan Blinder, outgoing vice chairman of the Federal Reserve in Washington. Although no central bank would admit to following the rule blindly, one of its main attractions lies in the fact that it appears to mimic the actual behaviour of the central banks with remarkable accuracy, so it can be used for forecasting purposes, as well as for guiding policy makers.

The rule explicitly acknowledges that central banks should have two separate objectives – the long-run control of price inflation, and the short-run stabilisation of output around its long-run trend. (Note that the second objective is only to reduce fluctuations in output and employment, not to change their average levels in the long run; the sole long-run objective relates to stable prices.)

These twin objectives may sound unfamiliar to British ears, since the current strategic objective given to the Bank of England by the Treasury involves an inflation target and nothing else. But no one in official circles would deny that there is, in practice, a trade-off between price stability and the stabilisation of output, and that both objectives should have some role in the setting of monetary policy.

This is probably why the Treasury has set a 1-4 per cent target range for inflation, as well as saying that in the long term the objective is to hold inflation to below 2.5 per cent. Although somewhat shrouded in the mists of deliberate obscurity, I take this combination to mean that inflation might be allowed to fluctuate around the 2.5 per cent central objective if this should be considered necessary to stabilise output and employment.

The danger with trying to follow a twin objective, however, is that it can seduce policy makers into accepting a rise in inflation pressure for far too long, on the grounds that they are trying to "stabilise" output when in fact output and employment are already well above their sustainable levels. The private sector knows that this temptation exists, so they build into their inflation expectations a permanent risk premium on the grounds that it may one day happen. This risk premium makes inflation harder to eliminate than it need otherwise be, even if the authorities always "behave themselves".

One way of overcoming this problem is to tie the hands of the central banks into a formal policy rule, such as the inflation target operated in the UK. But it is known that rigid rules of this sort are sub-optimal, because they do not allow any specific role for output stabilisation. The idea of the Taylor rule

is that it specifies exactly how the central bank should mix the twin objectives of price stability and output stabilisation. By specifying the exact mix in advance, it avoids the risk that the central bank will be tempted by "special circumstances" to deviate from the straight and narrow.

To operate the Taylor rule, the authorities first decide on a "neutral" level for short-term interest rates, possibly by looking at the average level which has been attained in previous economic cycles. For the UK, I reckon that the neutral real short rate is somewhere around 3.5 per cent. If inflation is at the target rate (2.5 per cent), and if output is at its trend level, then the authorities should set the real short rate at the neutral level of 3.5 per cent. Adding back the inflation rate, this suggests that the base rate under such circumstances should be about 6 per cent.

The rule then allows base rates to deviate from this level for two reasons. First, if inflation is above the 2.5 per cent target, base rates are increased by half the excess of inflation over its target. Second, if there is an output gap in the economy (ie output is below trend), base rates are reduced by half the extent of the output gap. Hence there is a simple trade-off between increasing interest rates if need be to hit the inflation target, while reducing them if necessary to stabilise output – and vice versa.

In practice, the application of any such rule will obviously lead to many complications, and no central bankers worth their salt (or their salaries) would ever dream of reducing the huge complexities of monetary policy to such a simple technique. Or that, anyway, is what they routinely say when asked about the Taylor rule. But what does their actual behaviour betray about the way they take decisions?

At Goldman Sachs, we have been seeing

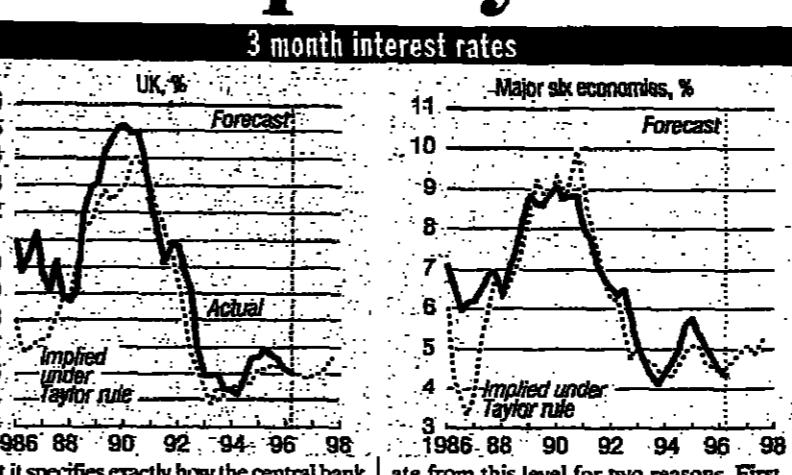
whether the Taylor rule is capable of tracking the actual interest rate paths set by central banks over the past 10 years. The evidence, as shown in the graphs, is very surprising – it implies that the key central banks have spent much of the past decade setting policy as if they have been following the Taylor rule. This applies as much to the UK as it does to other economies.

This rather startling observation has two clear implications. First, when it comes to forecasting central bank policy – which is the first crucial step towards understanding the behaviour of financial markets – it is very useful to see what the Taylor rule is implying about the future.

At present, as the graphs show, the rule implies that the trend in short-term rates is the Group of Seven countries will be gradually upwards in the next 12 to 18 months, but not by as much as the markets presently predict.

Second, it is possible to use the rule to gauge what UK policy setting should be in place right now. On this, with inflation slightly above target, but the output gap somewhat negative, it suggests that base rates should be almost exactly equal to their neutral level of 6 per cent – which happens also to be exactly where the Chancellor has put them. Furthermore, on the Goldman Sachs forecasts for inflation and GDP growth in the next 12 months, the Taylor rule reckons that the current level of rates will stay about right until after the election.

It would be a mistake to push such a simple mechanism too far. But it is comforting to note that, according to the Taylor rule, the stance of British monetary policy remains about right, even in a pre-election period. Let us hope it stays that way.



A bridge over some very troubled water

After a career in the gentle ponds of accountancy, Yorkshire's new chairman battens down for squalls

Sooner or later the question inevitably surfaces. After 32 years in the tranquil backwaters of accountancy, what on earth possessed Brandon Gough to take on the job of running Britain's most-hated company?

The new chairman of Yorkshire Water shifts slightly in his seat and then replies in equally candid fashion. "Having spent all my career in one business and with one firm I decided there was just enough time left to tackle something different. But there is no point saying you are available for jobs unless you are prepared to take on the challenging ones."

To describe the posting to Yorkshire Water as challenging may seem a trifle understated to some. The fiasco of last summer's drought and Yorkshire Water's inept response to it will take some beating in the annals of public relations disasters.

The fiasco did for Mr Gough's predecessor, Sir Gordon Jones, who led the entire water industry into privatisation seven years ago

but left Yorkshire Water with his reputation all but destroyed. It did for the company's managing director, Trevor Newton, too – the man who famously refused to take a bath, at least inside the country, for three months.

Water companies seem to breed larger-than-life chairmen who treat their territories like fiefdoms. Sir Gordon was to Yorkshire what his counterpart at North West Water, Sir Desmond Pitcher, is to Lancashire.

Mr Gough, however, has no pretensions to grandeur, no great plan to become another king of the ridings. In any case he comes from completely the wrong side of the Pennines.

Indeed, he intends to stay firmly put in Sevenoaks, Kent, where he lives with his wife. He will put in about two days a

week on Yorkshire Water shifts slightly in his seat and then replies in equally candid fashion. "Having spent all my career in one business and with one firm I decided there was just enough time left to tackle something different. But there is no point saying you are available for jobs unless you are prepared to take on the challenging ones."

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Reservoir bogs: Brandon Gough needs to reassure customers that levels will be up

next week (on 5 June) when Yorkshire Water announces its annual results. The drought cost it £47m and is expected to have left pre-tax profits about 10 per cent lower at around £140m.

But Yorkshire Water is still paying a bigger cost in terms of public mistrust. "In the short term we need to reassure our customers about security of supply," Mr Gough says. "While they were never cut off last year, people had an awful fright and I can see why they are apprehensive about this year."

The best estimates, he says, are that Yorkshire Water will be able to keep supplies flowing this summer, even if 1996 proves to be drier than 1995. Although hosepipe bans will remain in place there should be no need to tanker in water and certainly no need for rota cuts.

But these are short-term issues and what Mr Gough would really like to do is begin setting out a framework for how Yorkshire Water will improve the lot of its shareholders and customers, not to run the day-to-day management of the company. We will be putting a lot of emphasis on local management. After all they live there and can see the level of the water in the reservoirs."

Ah yes, the reservoir levels.

Since half the country's water needs are supplied from reservoirs, it is a matter of some interest. Last autumn the water supply system to West Yorkshire failed and supplies were only maintained through mass road tankering of water from neighbouring counties.

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Mr Gough now says Yorkshire wants to work more closely with its commercial customers. One example is in the treatment of effluent. That is one area where we might work with customers and help them deal with a problem in a way which is beneficial for them and simplifies our waste treatment operations."

Developing a relationship with its 2 million household customers. One example is in the treatment of effluent. At the moment, Yorkshire simply charges on a sliding scale according to how harmful the effluent is or how difficult it is to treat. "But it might pay for companies to undertake some intermediate treatment on site or to suggest that they might like to shift production out of the county to other sites in order to save water. The idea did very well."

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to the company and make inquiries. Ultimately he would like to see all Yorkshire's customers have greater choice in what they pay and how they choose to use their water. By that is he referring to water metering? "Personally I like being metered. When I first moved into a house in Kent it saved me money."

Metering, of course, is not to everyone's liking. Mr Gough might do well not to put a new controversy at the top of the Yorkshire Water agenda.

Michael Harrison

IN BRIEF

• Leisure group Ladbrooke has sold one of its most prestigious UK hotels to a Hong Kong property company for £100m. The group – which owns Hilton International – has announced that it has sold the freehold interest in the Langham Hilton Hotel in central London to Great Eagle Holdings.

Hilton International will continue to operate the hotel under a management contract. Ladbrooke said it has received a £10m deposit. The balance is due on completion, which is expected to take place in August. The proceeds of the sale are to be used to reduce group debt. The 380-room hotel made an operating profit of £7.5m in the financial year to the end of December 1995.

The original Langham Hotel was opened in 1865 and was known as one of the capital's premier hotels until the 1940s when it was converted to offices. Famous guests who have stayed at Langham in the past include Emperor Louis-Napoleon III, Haile Selassie and Mark Twain.

Ladbrooke bought the property, situated on Portland Place opposite Broadcasting House, from the BBC in 1986 and reopened the hotel as a Hilton in 1991.

• Rudolf Mueller, the chairman of Union Bank of Switzerland in the UK, is to join the board of Lend Lease, Australia's biggest property and financial services group.

Mr Mueller steps down from the executive board of UBS at the end of this month, although he will remain non-executive chairman in London.

Lend Lease, which has £53.1bn (£17m) under management, has been operating in the UK for five years.

• Venture capitalists CINVEN are backing the £34m management buy-out of carpet maker Duralay from BBA Group. CINVEN is putting up equity of £16.5m, the management will fund further equity and NatWest Markets has arranged £19m in borrowings. Duralay, based in Haslingden, Lancashire, has 15 staff and had sales of £49.1m last year.

• South Korean conglomerate Daewoo has added shipbuilding to its interests in Romania, paying \$53m for a controlling stake in a Black Sea shipbuilder.

Daewoo is investing \$53m in the Mangalia shipyard. The shipyard's own contribution to the joint venture is equipment and facilities valued at an estimated \$51m.

• Mediaset, the Italian television and advertising group has made an official request to financial watchdog Consob for a quotation on the bourse. Mediaset, at present controlled by Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest, announced on 24 May that it was delaying for five days a decision on the price range for a Milan stock market flotation planned for June.

Doubts grew over whether the flotation would take place after Milan magistrates earlier this month issued arrest warrants for seven employees or former employees suspected of being linked to alleged falsification of Fininvest's accounts.

Consob is due to report by the end of the week whether it will allow Mediaset's listing to go ahead.

• General Electric has won a \$1.7bn (£1.18bn) contract to supply a nuclear power plant, similar to Britain's Sizewell B, in Taiwan, beating Westinghouse and a US unit of ABB to clinch the deal. The plant, Taiwan's fourth, is due to be completed by the year 2004.

The legislature voted at the weekend to cancel the power plant's \$6bn budget, but opponents will

Trigger a target for acclaim

Racing

GREG WOOD

reports from Sandown Park

When an odds-on favourite leads his field into the final furlong at Sandown Park on Saturday, he is generally greeted by the bellows and roars of several thousand well-oiled Londoners. Not so Double Trigger, however. As last year's Ascot Gold Cup winner strode clear of his field in the Henry II Stakes yesterday, he received a rare accolade, as racegoers from the Silver Ring to the Members' Enclosure warmly applauded him home.

The last horse to be so honoured at the Epsom track was probably Desert Orchid, and Double Trigger's majestic performance – he beat Assessor by

seven lengths – confirmed him as not only one of the most popular horses in training, but also among the finest stayers of recent decades.

Breeders now cherish speed far above stamina and Double Trigger's competition is not what it might have been 20 years ago, but he can do no more than dominate his contemporaries and on this evidence he will continue to do so this summer.

His most serious opponent as he attempts to win his second stayers' Triple Crown – Gold Cup, Goodwood Cup and Doncaster Cup – may well be Double Eclipse, his full-brother, but Mark Johnston, who trains both, left few doubts about which of them will carry the greatest stable confidence at Ascot next month.

"Jason [Weaver] can't do

anything but stick with Trigger," Johnston said, when asked whether his rider might face a difficult choice before the Royal meeting. "He's a proven winner and he has to go to Ascot with the stable jockey on him."

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Sharp Consul (Leicester 4.00);
NB: Deadly Dudley (Sandown 8.20)

Michael Roberts is already booked for Double Eclipse.

If all goes to plan, the Gold Cup will be run as a repeat of yesterday's typical front-running success. "I think every time Double Trigger races, the commentator says, 'they're queuing up behind him,'" Johnston

said, "and every time the com-

mentator is caught out. Double Trigger has a breather six out and they always queue up, but when they turned for home I saw the sticks come out on the others and I thought, 'it's over, because our will battle longer than anybody's.'"

Royal Ascot will also be the next destination for Mind Games, who won the Group Two Temple Stakes for the second year running. "It would be nice if Jack [Berry, his trainer], will maintain his choice of attire yesterday when he saddles his colt for the King's Stand Stakes. Not just the famous red shirt, but a Mr Blobby tie too, which should test Ascot's starchy sartorial regulations to breaking point."

Mind Games was a comfortable winner yesterday, and will have a relatively light campaign this year as Berry pursues his great ambition of a Group One success. The Nunthorpe Stakes at York in August is the principal target, and Mind Games will run in the July Cup at Newmarket only if Berry feels it will fit in with this overall plan. "I want to give him a good crack at a Group One before he's worn out," Berry said. "He's done it well today, and he'll be a better horse when he can bound off the ground."

Mind Games may well be an improved performer this year, but it is worth remembering that he had an ideal draw yesterday, nine of 10. When the stalls are on the far side of Sandown's straight five-furlong course, and when there is some give in the ground in particular, high numbers have an enormous advantage.

GOING: Good to soft (firm in track straight); Straight course – Good. **STALLS:** Straight course – for side; remainder – inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers best for R.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Desert Orchid (6.20) won at Goodwood on Tuesday; Royal Ascot (6.20) was probably Desert Orchid, and Double Trigger's majestic performance – he beat Assessor by

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sport

Rocca rolls past Faldo down the Burma Road

Golf

TIM GLOVER
reports from Wentworth

During his career, Costantino Rocca has had to put up with some jokes, in the poorest taste, about Italian tanks having reverse gears but yesterday he went into overdrive down the closing stretch of Burma Road to win the Volvo PGA Championship, the European Tour's first £1m tournament. The Italian reformation was complete, for not only did Rocca win £66,660 but he did so in the most impressive style possible: he kept Nick Faldo in his shadow.

Rocca almost single-handedly took the blame for Europe's defeat in the Ryder Cup at The Belfry in 1993 when he missed a short putt at the penultimate hole before losing a crucial singles match. Although he played an important role in Europe's victory in America last September, there were still niggling doubts about whether Rocca was a big-time winner. He won two Tour events in 1993 and last year was second on five occasions, most memorably in the Open Championship at St Andrews, where he was defeated in a play-off by John Daly.

Yesterday when Rocca looked in his rear-view mirror he saw a sight regarded by most players as worse than a flashing blue light. The majority pull in and allow Faldo to

overtake. The 39-year-old Rocca, though, was fortified by an article he had read in an Italian newspaper. "Nick Faldo said that if he had to lose a major to me he would be happy. Today he finished second to me and I think he's happy." Not quite happy, but there is no dis-honour in finishing runner up to a golfer of Rocca's quality.

The final round began with Rocca and Mark McNulty leading at 11 under, one stroke in front of Paul Lawrie and three in front of Faldo. Faldo got in an early blow with a rare birdie three at the first where he hit a three-iron approach to 15 feet and by the time he reached the 13th he appeared to have stamped his authority on the championship.

By that stage, Faldo had gone to 12 under. He had birdies at the fourth, the 11th and the 12th but it was the 13th that not only brought him his only bogey of the round but provided Rocca with the breathing space he needed. Faldo had come into the championship wearing a new philosophy on his sleeve: to be more aggressive with his putting, go with the flow and if the first one does not go in, tough.

The first putt did not go in at the 13th, nor did the second and when that lipped out of the hole he glared at a scapegoat around the green. "A photographer was taking pictures at the wrong time," Faldo snapped. Even so, he was back on course when he

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Agassi regains control of game and tongue

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Paris

No sooner had Monica Seles played her part in a dedication ceremony to re-name Court A in honour of Suzanne Lenglen at the French Open here yesterday than Andre Agassi appeared to confuse the place with the nearby Avenue Gordon Bennett. The American's penchant for expletives brought him within one court of disqualification.

Agassi became increasingly irritable as he attempted to hold his game together in almost constant drizzle on a cold, mis-

erable opening day at Stade Roland Garros. He was warned for one audible obscenity and penalised a point for another.

That took the No 3 seed to the brink when he handled the additional handicap of disciplinary worries. His erratic form had already awakened hope in his opponent, Jacobo Diaz, a Spanish qualifier ranked No 261 in the world. Agassi managed to regain control of his shots and his tongue after a 90-minute rain delay in the fourth set, advancing to the second round, 6-1, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

"I have a tendency to make it more difficult on myself than it needs to be," Agassi acknowledged, while rejecting the notion

that he ever feared he would be leaving the grounds in disgrace. "I felt pretty much in control as far as that goes," he said.

The umpire, Australia's Wayne McKewen, was also involved in a notorious incident during one of Agassi's matches at the 1990 United States Open. On that occasion Agassi split in McKewen's direction, but he was given the benefit of the doubt by the supervisor after pleading that he was not aiming at the umpire.

Agassi's struggle within himself yesterday was symptomatic of the sense of anxiety which pervaded the start of the championships, with so many competitors desperate to reassure

themselves that they were healthy enough and sufficiently well prepared to make a decent challenge. Although Mary Pierce seemed in danger of catching her death of cold in a halter-neck dress, the leading players emerged unscathed.

In Seles's case, the only threat came during the Court Lenglen ceremony, when one of the dignitaries evidently forgot about her injury and gave her damaged shoulder a friendly pat. Otherwise, her first appearance here since completing a hat-trick of singles titles four years ago – before Gunther Parcic and his wife disrupted her life – went well.

Judgement regarding the ef-

ficiency of Seles's serve, however, will have to be reserved until she faces a more challenging opponent than the 22-year-old Caroline Deneuve, a sturdy French wild card ranked No 168 in the world. There was certainly no lack of potency in Seles's returns as she swept to victory, 6-1, 6-1, in 52 minutes.

Last Thursday I stopped my practice because I literally could not serve," Seles said. "Sunday was the first day I served well. I just have to take the best of it, take it a match at a time, but I definitely have to serve some better serves."

Pete Sampras felt no twinges from his back injury when defeating Sweden's Magnus

Gustafsson, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6, but the top seed knows that his problems here are just about to begin. A year ago, his second-round match against Sergi Bruguera would have been hailed as an ideal final.

Bruguera, the champion in 1993 and 1994, is not ranked high enough to be seeded this year. Yesterday he advanced to meet Sampras with a straight sets win against Javier Sanchez, a Spanish compatriot. "My road here just gets tougher," Sampras mused, remembering that Bruguera eliminated him in four sets when they played in the quarter-finals in 1993.

While Bruguera's game was made for clay courts, Sampras

is still learning to come to terms with the sport's slowest surface. "I'm trying to play on my terms, be aggressive, not be so passive like I have been in the past," the American said.

Tim Henman is another who needs to find his feet on clay, although the British No 1's debut here was not helped by five weeks' absence because of a virus. Henman's participation ended with a 6-4, 6-4, 7-defeat by Kris Goossens, of Belgium.

Being French, there were fears from Henri Leconte in his retirement year. He bade farewell by climbing into the umpire's chair and addressing the crowd after losing to Sweden's Thomas Johansson, 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.

Paris no match for the Blue Sox

Rugby League

Paris St-Germain 10
Halifax Blue Sox 38

Asa Amone spoilt Paris's bright start to the Super League season as he inspired a comfortable Halifax victory with a hat-trick of tries.

The Blue Sox became the second Yorkshire club in a row to beat the French side at the Charlety Stadium after Leeds' success there a fortnight ago.

In an error-strewn affair with both sides struggling to find their rhythm, it was Halifax who showed the superior power, epitomised by Carl Gillespie's two tries and a battling display from their captain, Karl Harrison.

Amone, the full back, was also well supported by the centre Graeme Hallas and the hard-working hooker Paul Rowley, as well as the loose forward Simon Baldwin.

Leading 16-6 at half-time, Halifax got stronger in the second half with John Bentley and Hallas both going over at the corner before the substitute Paul Highton claimed the final try one minute before the end.

Patrick Entiat, captain in place of the injured Pierre Chamorin, was the best of the Paris players, who tried hard enough but looked tired.

Holmes finds form in time for Madrid

Athletics

Britain's Kelly Holmes overcame a stuttering start to the season by running the fastest 800 metres in the world this year at a meeting in Lubljana, Slovenia.

The double world championship medallist clocked 1min 58.87sec to confirm her place in the two-lap event in Britain's team for the European Cup in Madrid this weekend.

Holmes' confidence had taken a knock after she finished seventh over 1500m at the Atlanta Grand Prix a week earlier.

She was one of 13 British winners at a meeting which included a sprint double for Darren Braithwaite and a UK pole vault record for Kate Staples.

Braithwaite won the 100m in 10.14sec and then enjoyed another success over 200m in 21.02. Staples raised the record to 3.90m, then failed to break the 4.00 barrier. Duaine Ladjeo tuned up for the European Cup with a victory in the 400m.



Palace's Dougie Freedman (right) is thwarted by Kevin Poole and Steve Walsh yesterday. Photograph: Robert Hallam

McLaren blow to weakened Scotland

PHIL SHAW

reports from Miami

Scotland suffered a further setback to their preparations for the European Championship last night when Alan McLaren, the Rangers defender, was forced to concede his place in the squad for the finals to Middlesbrough's Derek Whyte.

The Scots, who moved on to Florida to play Colombia to-

morrow after the 2-1 defeat by the United States on Sunday, arrived to find confirmation from Glasgow that McLaren will not have recovered from knee surgery last Friday in time to play in England.

"It's a major blow," Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, said. "We've now lost key players from defence, midfield and attack – McLaren, Paul McStay and Duncan Ferguson – so our resources are stretched."

Brown conceded that Whyte

gave an "indifferent" display against the Americans. However, like most of the Scottish players, the former Celtic centre-back was playing his first match in more than three weeks.

Scotland will field something resembling their tournament line-up against Colombia. Gordon Durie, outstanding in attack until his half-time withdrawal with a neck injury on Sunday, is doubtful. Andy Goram is set to return in goal, while Ally McCoist, who admitted the United States game was "a good one to miss", is in line to play up front.

The American captain, John Harkes, felt the Scots looked "like a team on vacation". Whyte retorted that he had obviously not seen them training, while Brown said: "We've taken difficult away from home warm-up fixtures. Obviously we don't want to lose them, but the big picture starts next month and we're still very confident."

SPORTING DIGEST

Cycling

GB NATIONAL TRACK CHAMPIONSHIPS (Birmingham) Open 400m pursuit. Final: R Hayes (Team Arundel) 4:21.18; 2 M Ring (Team Arundel) 4:21.20; 3 M Morris (Team Arundel) 4:21.21; 4 M Morris (Team Arundel) 4:21.22; 5 M Morris (Team Arundel); N Morris (Team Arundel); P Jones (Dunlopers), B Green (Wessex), K Dawson (Dunlopers), D McNamee (Leicester), capts.

freestyle: 5 Meller (Birmingham). Backstroke: 1 M Morris (Team Arundel); 2 M Morris (Team Arundel); 3 M Morris (Team Arundel); 4 M Morris (Team Arundel); N Morris (Team Arundel); P Jones (Dunlopers), B Green (Wessex), K Dawson (Dunlopers), D McNamee (Leicester), capts.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (Lubljana, Slovenia) Selected ladies' Medals 300m: 1 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.86; 2 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.87; 3 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.88; 4 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.89; 5 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.90; 6 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.91; 7 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.92; 8 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.93; 9 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.94; 10 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.95; 11 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.96; 12 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.97; 13 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.98; 14 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.99; 15 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.10; 16 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.11; 17 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.12; 18 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.13; 19 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.14; 20 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.15; 21 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.16; 22 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.17; 23 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.18; 24 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.19; 25 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.20; 26 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.21; 27 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.22; 28 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.23; 29 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.24; 30 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.25; 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185 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.180; 186 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.181; 187 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.182; 188 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.183; 189 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.184; 190 S Brazil (Portugal) 3:30.185;

SPORT

Beardsley first to get the bad news

GLENN MOORE

Football Correspondent

reports from Hong Kong

It did not seem significant at the time, but the symbolism of a brief exchange towards the end of England's match with China on Thursday became apparent yesterday.

With 19 minutes left, and England leading 3-0, Peter Beardsley came on for Nick Barnby, the scorer of two of the goals. Then Tony Adams was substituted and, as he left, he passed the captain's armband to Beardsley. Two days later Beardsley discovered that those 14 minutes as captain of his country were to be the last of his international career.

Terry Venables, who this morning names his 22-man squad for Euro 96, yesterday revealed that Beardsley would not

be in it. With a new manager taking over in July, it seems certain that the 35-year-old with 59 caps to his name will not be winning a 60th.

"It was nice when Tony passed me the armband," Beardsley said yesterday. "Then I looked round and I realised I was about 10 years older than everyone else."

"I think I knew then, I had not started for a while and Nick had come in against China and been magnificent. That probably tipped the balance in his favour. If I'd played against China it might have gone the other way, but that's the way it goes."

Beardsley's last start for England was against Sweden in June. The China game was the second of two substitute appearances this season, both replacing Barnby who, at 21, is 14 years his junior.

Barnby idolises Beardsley

and they have been rooming together. Which made it embarrassing for both parties when Beardsley told Barnby he was out. "He joked at first, he could not believe it," Beardsley said.

"In a funny way he's disappointed for me. It is hard to know what to say in that position. If it had been the reverse even I, with my experience, would have found it hard. It sounds big-headed, but the way he looks up to me and treats me makes it difficult."

"He would not even tell his wife - we both speak to our wives with the other in the room and he was too embarrassed to say 'I've a great chance because Peter's out' with me there. In the end I said, 'I'll tell her. If you can't.'

"I look at him and I see myself 13 or 14 years ago. If anything is a bonus out of this it is that he is in."

FOOTBALL: Leicester make it back to the Premiership

GOLF: Rocca holds off Faldo to win the PGA Championship

21

20

THE INDEPENDENT • TUESDAY 28 MAY 1996

In next Monday's Independent
A comprehensive guide to
Euro 96, including
an in-depth interview with
Terry Venables

The decision comes close behind the disappointment of Newcastle's championship failure, but Beardsley said: "They are two lows, but if you look at the amount of highs I have had I cannot really complain. I got 10 caps under Terry I would not have got under Graham Taylor."

The first of those was also his 50th, after three years on 49. "That was the highlight," Beardsley said of his international career, adding: "The best match I played was the World Cup semi-final against West Germany."

Not many players would have volunteered to speak to the

media after being dropped from the squad, and his decency and helpfulness was recognised afterwards by a rare ovation from the press.

"He had asked to be told if he wasn't going to make it, so I told him after training on Saturday," Venables said. "He's been the perfect example. He is the best professional I have worked with. I'm not just saying that today, I have said it all the way through. He could feel he has not had the chances he should have had and I would accept that, but others can feel the same."

Gary Pallister is also out of the squad. With Tony Adams and Steve Howey recently injured, Venables said he could not risk Pallister's back problem.

It is a very difficult squad to predict. Venables has aimed to pick the balls while his teammates headed for the team bus.

Not many players would have

every place. But he has not been able to give the likes of Campbell, Ugo Ehiogu and Jason Wilcox as much experience as he would have liked. Then there is the question of specialists - does he include Wilcox, the only genuine winger, and two or three centre-forwards?

Sixteen players are definite: Seaman, Walker, Flowers (three goalkeepers are compulsory), Gary Neville, Phil Neville, Pearce, Adams, Southgate, Ince, Gascoigne, Platt, Anderson, McManaman, Barnby, Sheringham, Shearer, Rob Lee is a likely 17th inclusion.

Two of the remaining five places will go to defenders, Campbell for his versatility gets one while Howey's greater experience wins him the nod over Ehiogu if he is fit. That leaves three places.

Steve Stone has impressed for England but not on this tour.

Illingworth clouds England's success

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Old Trafford

India 236-4

England 239-6

England win by 4 wickets

The sun came out at Old Trafford yesterday as England beat India for the second time in three days to take the Texaco trophy 2-0. But no sooner has it begun to shine on English cricket than the headline hogging cloud of the Raymond Illingworth affair obliterated everything by moving back to centre stage. With the matter now being referred to the discipline committee by its chairman, Gerard Elias, QC, it could be some time before the cricket re-asserts itself on the summer.

Mind you, it is unprecedented for a chairman of selectors to be called before the discipline committee, and it is a clear sign that the Test and County Cricket

Board is taking things seriously. Tellingly, the outbursts in print by Devon Malcolm on his return from South Africa never got this far, which will lend further support to Illingworth's own theory that he was being unreasonably picked on.

However, with only the nature of the comments being under scrutiny rather than the cynical timing of them, it seems unlikely that Illingworth will be censured severely. The committee's powers range from a reprimand (the likeliest outcome) to complete removal from his job as the chairman of selectors.

Yesterday Illingworth was adamant that he would not bow to pressure from certain countries to step down. "I shall be defending myself and putting my case very strongly," he said, adding, "I feel my comments have been fair and constructive."

In theory, these will be the last words uttered by Illingworth as the whole tawdry soap opera

now become sub judice until the hearing, which, in true TCCB fashion, will apparently take place "as soon as possible". When that will be is anybody's guess, and it is unlikely to take place before this weekend's selection meeting for the first Test, which begins a week on Thursday. Illingworth, after all, needs time to prepare his case and call witnesses.

He is also allowed to object to those on the discipline committee, which needs five members present out of 12 to be quorate. Ironically, one of those who would normally sit on such matters is David Graveney, who recently put himself forward as a candidate to challenge Illingworth's position as England supremo, a challenge he was later forced to withdraw because of his position as secretary of the Players' Association. However, his presence is required only when a player is called before the committee, and Illingworth need have no fears of being Caesared.

It is just a shame for Atherton and his team that the intrigue off the field is overshadowing the good work on it. Yesterday was no exception, and England, propelled by a thrilling century from Alistair Brown, once again beat India, winning by four wickets with seven balls to spare.

These days any England win is satisfying, but this one will have proved doubly so for Brown, who in his three-match career to date has already experienced the roller-coaster ride given to modern sportsmen by a media demanding immediate and incisive results.

After his less than auspicious debut on a seaming pitch at the Oval, he'll probably find that Illingworth allows him the space that his knockers are insisting he gets a knighthood.

Ironically, Brown's innings

did not unfold as a pinch hitter's ought to have done. He was cautious to start with, having lost Neil Smith to a brilliant slower ball from Venkatesh Prasad, and after 15 overs, England were 48 for 2.

A similar fate awaited Hick, who just managed to chip the ball to mid-on, though by 85 runs had been added and Brown, batting on a decent pitch for the first time in the series, was able to hit clean and straight, although there were decent moments too, like the lowly late cut for four he played off Anil Kumble. Another part-

of the story is that even though he played few Tests he became a cricketing legend. Milburn's batting came to a standstill straight behind the head of the bowler, Venkatesh Raju.

"I told Chris Lewis on Sunday night [when Brown was not out] that I was going to get a hundred tomorrow," Brown said. "You don't always do it, but I felt really good. Mind you, I

did at Headingley too and I was heading back second ball there."

Atherton, who admitted he was not in the best of nick himself, added his own tribute. "He played fantastically well. It was a very mature innings for someone in their third one-day international."

He also gave his thoughts about India, who were reeling from the sudden retirement of Navjot Sidhu, seemingly miffed about being dropped. "I was really impressed by their new ball bowlers. They lacked a fifth bowler though, and that told against them in all three games."

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Sidhu, 32, who averages 40.13 in Tests, was dropped for the final Texaco game, a decision which it is believed has especially angered him, although he declined to elaborate yesterday. "My dignity would be compromised if I carried on with this Indian team," was his only comment.

Sandip Patel, the Indian team manager, said he would be making strenuous efforts to persuade Sidhu to change his mind. "I'm sad because there is a lot of cricket left in him. He is a quiet guy, who is well regarded. We also need him more now because we are not performing particularly well."

He denied, though, that a fall-out between the tour management and Sidhu had contributed to their Texaco defeats.

The anticipation and excitement he created as a hard-hitting opening batsman with Northamptonshire and later England, helped, of course, by his Falstaffian figure, was extraordinary. Just like Brown, who is physically less noticeable, any big innings he played was enormously memorable.

Milburn caught the imagination of the 1960s cricketing public and, in turn, of the

selectors. He broke the mould,

providing an irresistible streak of individuality, and was taken seriously. He played in only nine Tests matches between 1966 and 1968, because he was half-bitten in a car accident.

Milburn batted in such a way that even though he played few Tests he became a cricketing legend. Milburn's batting came to a standstill straight behind the head of the bowler, Venkatesh Raju.

It is intriguing to speculate,

therefore, on the international career of no less a batsman than Colin Milburn if he had been born into the modern game. At the start of his county career the one-day label would have been stuck on him, and would he ever have shaken it off?

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